

THE POWER OF THE IKON. By NEGLEY FARSON

DEC 1 1941

Country Life

On Sale Friday
NOVEMBER 7, 1941

ONE SHILLING & THREEPENCE



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Country Life

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NOVEMBER 7, 1941.

Published Friday, Price ONE SHILLING & THREEPENCE.

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Between Romsey and Salisbury.

MODERN HOUSE IN A DELIGHTFUL SETTING

with every convenience.

Hall, 3 reception rooms, 4 bedrooms, bath room. Main electricity. Ample water. Septic tank drainage. Garage with room over.

Gardens and grounds of considerable natural beauty with meadows, in all

ABOUT 23½ ACRES £6,250 FREEHOLD

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Half a mile of Trout Fishing.

STONE-BUILT HOUSE

400ft. up with lovely views; easy access to good Town. Hall, 3 reception rooms, 10 bedrooms, 3 bath rooms, up-to-date offices; abundant water, main electric light and power, central heating. Home Farm. Garages and Stabling.

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IDEAL FOR BUSINESS OR INSTITUTIONAL PURPOSES.

BERKSHIRE

45 minutes from Paddington, near an important town.

SUBSTANTIAL AND COMMODIOUS HOUSE

4 RECEPTION ROOMS, 9 BEDROOMS, 2 BATH ROOMS.

All main services.

COTTAGE. AMPLE GARAGES.

ABOUT 1½ ACRES £5,000 FREEHOLD

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WILTSHIRE

Near the Downs.

400ft. up in an unspoilt village.

AN INTERESTING RESIDENCE

partly stone built with mullioned windows.

Hall, 4 reception rooms, 7 bedrooms, bath room. Own water. Company's electricity nearby. Garage.

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Stone-built RESIDENCE in a favoured district

Hall, 4 reception rooms, 9 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bath rooms.

Main Water. Electric Light. Modern Drainage. Cottage. Stabling. Garage.

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HENLEY. MARLOW. HIGH WYCOMBE. CHILTERN HILLS. 550ft. up. Fascinating old-fashioned and interesting COTTAGE RESIDENCE. Hall, 2 recep., 4 bedrooms, 2 dressing rooms, bathroom, main water, main electricity. Garage. 2 cottages. Pretty gardens. About 2 ACRES, FREEHOLD. ONLY £3,500.—BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY, 184, Brompton Road, S.W.3.



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FOR SALE FREEHOLD

A LOVELY OLD HOUSE

ENLARGED AND MODERNISED
WITH GREAT CARE.

MANY CHARACTERISTICS.

TASTEFULLY APPOINTED. FIRST
CLASS ORDER.

Drive approached off common.

Hall, 4 reception, cloakroom, offices,
servants' hall, 7 bedrooms (4 with
h. & c.), 3 bathrooms.

Central heating throughout.



Co.'s electric light, water and modern
drainage. 2 cottages.

Garage for 4 cars with flat over. Useful
outbuildings.

FASCINATING GARDENS.

HARD TENNIS COURT.

PRODUCTIVE KITCHEN GARDEN,

GRASSLAND, ETC.

IN ALL ABOUT 20 ACRES

Highly recommended to those seeking
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NEAR CHELMSFORD

PICTURESQUE OLD-FASHIONED RESIDENCE IN RURAL
SURROUNDINGS



3 excellent reception
rooms, 8 bed and dress-
ing rooms, 4 bathrooms
and offices.

Electric light.

Central heating.

Excellent water supply.

2 COTTAGES.

GARAGE.

Stabling, fine old barn.
Beautiful well-stocked
garden, tennis court,
orchard, paddock, &c.,
nearly

10 ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD AT REDUCED PRICE

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SITUATED JUST OFF VILLAGE GREEN IN MOST FASCINATING PART OF
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GODALMING AND HASLEMERE

FOR SALE WITH EARLY POSSESSION

A LOVELY XVIII CENTURY COTTAGE RESIDENCE

Carefully Modernised,
yet retaining all its
Characteristics.

Hall, cloak room, 3
reception rooms, com-
plete offices, 6 bed and
dressing rooms, 2 bath-
rooms, 2 staff bedrooms
over the garage for
2 cars.

Co.'s electricity and
power, water. Modern
drainage.

DELIGHTFUL
FLOWER, FRUIT
AND VEGETABLE
GARDEN, IN ALL
ABOUT 3/4 ACRE



FURTHER LAND POSSIBLY AVAILABLE.

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EAST SUSSEX

Choice south position with a panoramic view.

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A LOVELY OLD FARM HOUSE

DATING BACK TO 1540.

BEAUTIFULLY RESTORED, MODERN-
ISED AND IN FAULTLESS ORDER
THROUGHOUT.

CENTRAL HEATING. FITTED BASINS.

3 BATHROOMS. AGA COOKER.

3 delightful sitting rooms including THE OAK
ROOM PANELLED THROUGHOUT
27ft. x 18ft. 9in.



8 BEDROOMS, GARAGE, 2 COTTAGES.

BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS.

2 oast houses. Walled garden. Tennis pavilion
in all about

10 ACRES

**ONE OF THE MOST INTER-
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MARKET TO-DAY**

PRICE £8,500 FREEHOLD

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FOR SALE.

2 miles from the Town.

AN EXCEPTIONAL SMALL MODERN HOUSE WITH LARGE ROOMS

In a glorious position on a sandrock soil.

**SURROUNDED BY ITS OWN LANDS AND GARDENS OF
12 ACRES**

Lounge 30ft. by 15ft., 2 other reception rooms, 2 loggias, best bedroom 30ft. by 15ft.,
3 other bedrooms, bathroom. All main services, including main drainage. Small
farmery. Garage. 2 cottages, the whole forming the

IDEAL SMALL PROPERTY. PRICE FREEHOLD £6,000

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FOR SALE.

DELIGHTFUL GEORGIAN RESIDENCE

In quiet rural position 'midst beautiful unspoilt surroundings about 300ft. above sea level.

7 bed and dressing rooms, bathroom, 4 reception rooms, and complete offices. Planned
on 2 floors only. Attractive cottage with 5 rooms and bathroom. Garage. Useful
brick and timber built outbuildings.

The grounds are of exceptional interest to garden lovers and include old brick walls ideal
for fruit, orchard, kitchen garden, boating pond, beautiful forest trees.

IN ALL ABOUT 5 ACRES.

PRICE FREEHOLD £4,500

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Ideal for School or Institution

WESTERN MIDLANDS

To be Let

FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED

Attractive country house standing in own grounds and containing exceptionally fine reception rooms, 15 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms.

Electric light and all conveniences.

PRIVATE ORATORY.

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Messrs. Osborn & Mercer are retained by a client to secure an Agricultural Estate of about

2,000 ACRES

Solely for the purpose of investment.

Will interested owners or their agents or solicitors kindly communicate in confidence with R.B.W., c/o OSBORN AND MERCER, as above.

IN A KENTISH VILLAGE

occupying a good position facing South-east and commanding a pleasant outlook

AN ATTRACTIVE HOUSE OF CHARACTER

In good order and quite up to date with

Hall, 3 reception, 6 bedrooms (3 with lav. basins) 3 bathrooms.

Company's electricity, gas, and water.

2 Cottages Stabling

Delightful gardens and grounds, well matured and extending to about 1½ ACRES

For Sale by OSBORN & MERCER. (17,271)

WILTS AND GLOS BORDERS

In a delightful rural district within easy reach of Malmesbury and Chippenham. 350ft. above sea level. South aspect.

A SMALL RESIDENTIAL ESTATE OF ABOUT 160 ACRES

A Modern House of character, well planned and up to date.

Lounge hall, 3 reception, 12 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Electric light. Central heating.

Farmery. Fine range of stabling. 3 cottages, etc. Charming gardens, finely timbered parks, rich old pasture, etc.

For Sale by OSBORN & MERCER. (17,267.)



SALOP—CHESHIRE BORDERS

BEAUTIFUL ELIZABETHAN RESIDENCE WITH CAPITAL DAIRY FARM, LONG STRETCH OF TROUT FISHING

The Residence stands high on sandy soil with southerly aspect, and has about 10 bedrooms, usual reception rooms, etc. Modern conveniences.

Cottages. Stabling. Splendid range of Farm-buildings.

Attractive pleasure gardens, parklands, rich, well-watered pastures, in all about

240 ACRES

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3, MOUNT STREET,
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RALPH PAY & TAYLOR

Telephones :
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CLOSE TO WALTON HEATH

Practically adjoining Headley Common.

IN A LOVELY UNSPOILT DISTRICT WITHIN EASY DAILY REACH OF LONDON.

DISTINCTIVE MODERN HOUSE OF CHARACTER

IN A FINE POSITION WITH BEAUTIFUL VIEWS.

11 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, hall, 4 reception rooms.

Main electric light and water. Central heating.

GARAGES. EXCELLENT STABLING. 3 COTTAGES.

LOVELY GARDENS WITH HARD AND GRASS TENNIS COURTS, ROCK GARDENS, KITCHEN GARDEN. GOOD PASTURELAND AND PADDOCKS.

ABOUT 19 ACRES. FREEHOLD FOR SALE

WOULD BE SOLD WITH SMALLER AREA.

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JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK

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HIGH BERKSHIRE

Under 50 miles from London.



GEORGIAN REPLICA with a roof of old tiles, 500ft. above sea-level, southern aspect, panoramic views, everything modern, and in first-rate order. 3 sitting rooms 6 bedrooms (lav. basins), dressing room, 2 bathrooms, servants' hall. Main electricity. Coy.'s water. Central heating. Cottage containing 3 bedrooms and bathroom. 2 garages, stabling for 2, and other buildings. Gardens are attractive and include tennis lawn, kitchen garden, orchard and meadow, in all about 11 ACRES. Owner's authorised Agents: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, S.W.1. (L.R. 7774.)

DORSET BORDERS



GEORGIAN (1822) COUNTRY RESIDENCE, nearly 300ft. above sea level, southern aspect, extensive views and in a small park. 3 sitting rooms, 8 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Servants' sitting room. Electric light and central heating. Stabling and garage. Well-timbered grounds and pasture. Total area about 29 ACRES. PRICE FREEHOLD £4,300 (or house and grounds only). Owner's Agents: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, S.W.1. (L.R. 7774.)

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Half a mile of Trout Fishing included.



RED-BRICK GEORGIAN RESIDENCE in beautiful order, situated in centre of its own lands, in a lovely district where almost all forms of country pursuits are obtainable at low cost. Splendid bus services available. Hall and 3 sitting rooms, 5 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms. Electric light and central heating. 2 "Black and White" cottages. Splendid outbuildings, garage, etc. Excellent gardens and rich pasture; in all about 23 ACRES. PRICE FREEHOLD £4,500. Owner's Agents: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, S.W.1. (L.R. 19,931.)

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WITH EVERY POSSIBLE MODERN CONVENIENCE.
Situate in Sussex, and having a lovely panoramic view.

FOR SALE

THE ABOVE LOVELY OLD HOUSE IN PERFECT ORDER having oak floors, open fireplaces, fitted basins in bedrooms, large light windows, electric light, central heating, Aga cooker, etc. Accommodation includes hall, 3 nice reception rooms, including a beautifully panelled lounge, 8 large bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, and good offices. Garage for 3 cars. 2 cottages. Double Oast house, large barn, very lovely gardens; with a fine walled kitchen garden, lawns for tennis, etc., rose garden, orchard, fine rhododendron walk. 2 meadows.

IN ALL 10 ACRES

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And at
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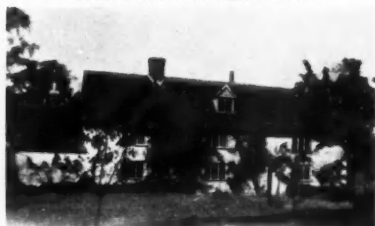
Excellent service to Waterloo.



FOR SALE FREEHOLD, A MELLOWED RED BRICK AND TILED RESIDENCE in first rate condition. 12 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3 reception rooms, Billiards room, Air raid shelter, Spacious garage and flat over. Attractive grounds. Hard tennis court. Kitchen garden, etc. In all about 7 acres. All main services.—Inspected and recommended by GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (D.1145.)

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In an ideal spot. Undulating country. Lovely views. 1½ miles station. 9 miles main line. Near bus.



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DELIGHTFUL OLD RECTORY. Modernised throughout with central heating, main e.l. and water. 7 bed 3 bath, 3 reception rooms, etc. Garage. Grounds and paddock. Bounded by picturesque reach of Basingstoke canal. **RENT 10 GNS. PER WEEK.**—Particulars of GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (C. 3075)

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The accommodation includes 6-7 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms. Excellent modern domestic offices. Central heating throughout. Electricity, gas, main water.

GARAGE FOR 2 CARS

SWIMMING POOL WITH CHANGING ROOMS
AIR-RAID SHELTER FOR 8

CHARMING, WELL-LAID OUT GARDEN WITH
OPTIONAL ACREAGE OVER A PERIOD OF
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In the heart of unspoilt country commanding lovely views.
45 MINUTES LONDON



ATTRACTIVE HOUSE OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER

2 reception rooms, sun
room, 5 bedrooms,
bathroom.

MAIN ELECTRIC
LIGHT AND WATER.
GARAGE.

LOVELY GARDENS, ORCHARDS AND PASTURE.

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A "SHOW PLACE" OF INCOMPARABLE CHARM.

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CHARMING OLD FARMHOUSE STYLE RESIDENCE

DESIGNED BY EMINENT ARCHITECT.

3 reception, 8 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, staff sitting room. Central heating. Basins in bedrooms. All main services. Double garage.

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WITH PRIVATE GATEWAY TO COMMON.

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A property of exceptional merit, strongly recommended

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On gravel soil, 350ft. above sea level, facing South.

NEAR ST. ALBANS. 15 MILES
NORTH OF LONDON

A MOST ATTRACTIVE MODERN RESIDENCE OF CHARACTER

Lounge hall, 2 reception, 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms,
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Company's electric light, gas and water. Main drainage.
Garage.

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THOUSANDS OF POUNDS HAVE BEEN SPENT ON MODERNISING THE HOUSE, PARTLY BUILT IN THE XVTH CENTURY.

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9 FARMS IN EXCELLENT CONDITION

SMALL GROUSE MOOR AND GOOD ROUGH SHOOT. 3 MILES FROM FAMOUS SALMON RIVER.

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In a lovely unspoilt district.

20 MILES FROM LONDON, but quite rural, close to miles of common lands, 2 miles golf, 2½ miles station. Exceptionally good modern RESIDENCE with well-proportioned rooms, central heating, main water and electricity. Fine oak panelling. 4 reception, 3 bathrooms, 11 bedrooms. Garages. Excellent stabling. 3 cottages. Most charming grounds. Hard tennis court and 2 grass tennis courts, rock garden, kitchen garden, paddock and pasture. **19 ACRES. WOULD DIVIDE.**—Inspected, and highly recommended by TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (20,720.)

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Secluded but only few minutes from bus service.

CHARMING COUNTRY HOUSE. 4 reception, 3 bathrooms, 9 bedrooms, 4 fitted wash-basins.

Central heating. Main c.l. and water.

"Aga" cooker.

LARGE GARAGE.

DELIGHTFUL GROUNDS. ROCK GARDEN.

TENNIS LAWN. KITCHEN GARDEN. ORCHARD, PASTURE AND WOODLAND. 7 ACRES.

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WITH CENTRAL HEATING THROUGHOUT, FITTED WASH BASINS IN BEDROOMS AND ALL MAIN SERVICES CONNECTED

3 reception, billiard room, 8 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.

CAPITAL STABLING AND LARGE GARAGE. LOVELY GARDENS.

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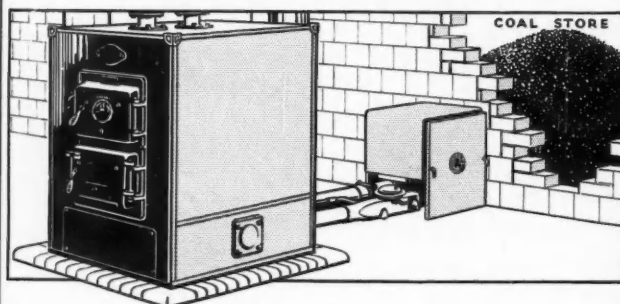
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COUNTRY LIFE

NOVEMBER 7, 1941



Harlip

LADY MEYER

Lady Meyer—whose marriage to Sir Anthony Meyer, Bt., Scots Guards, took place last week at Eton College Chapel—was, before her marriage, Miss Barbadee Knight, and is the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Knight, of Datchet, Buckinghamshire, and Lincoln's Inn. Sir Anthony Meyer is the only child of the late Sir Frank Meyer, Bt., M.P., of Ayot St. Lawrence, Hertfordshire, and of Mrs. Bendix, of Eastington Manor, Gloucestershire.

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THE COUNTRYSIDE AFTER THE WAR

THE scope of the Committee, with Lord Justice Scott as Chairman, which has been appointed by Lord Reith, in consultation with the Minister of Agriculture, is very much that of our *Green and Pleasant Land* series. In effect, it is to review the Barlow Report on the Location of Industry the other way round: from the country point of view. "The conditions which should govern building and constructional development" in the country, consistently with the maintenance of agriculture, are to be considered, and such aspects as "part-time and seasonal employment, the well-being of rural communities, and the preservation of rural amenities." Our articles have shown how important and complex are the issues concerned, and the appointment of the Committee is to be welcomed. In the Chairman, and such members as Lord Radnor, Lady Denman, Dr. Stamp, and Mr. Thomas Sharp, the personnel commands respect. One of the initial decisions which the Committee will be called upon to face is the question of rural communities, raised again in Miss Denby's article in this issue. She vigorously attacks the policy of distributing industry in country areas, advocated by Mr. Osborn and Mr. Thomas, on the grounds that it will destroy the integrity of the traditional agricultural community; and more particularly the official planning policy of a maximum of eight houses per acre which, she maintains, produces something neither town, village, nor country. There is bound to be a period of disorganisation following the redistribution of industry which, it must be remembered, has already begun. But it may be thought that the new blood and increased rateable value thereby introduced to rural areas will compensate it and produce a more vital society in the long run. On the other hand, the rigid insistence on detached or semi-detached housing makes the planning of satisfactory communities very much more difficult than if greater variation were permissible.

HOME GUARD TRAINING

THE general instructions for this winter's training of the Home Guard have been issued. They are wisely based on the principle of developing what has already been learnt, and the use of weapons already received, by the more advanced elements, keeping these so far as possible separate from men in the recruit stage as regards training. As the elementary stage is left behind, the keenness of commanders is increasingly tested, especially by the approach of winter and long nights. Conditions vary so widely with a unit's terrain, as between town and country, residential areas and villages, and even between the compact village and scattered group of homesteads, that it is difficult to generalise. But while some platoon and company commanders have obviously brought their men to a considerable pitch of efficiency and team spirit, others have been less successful. Glaring differences can be found even between platoons of the same company. To some extent this may be due to accidents of terrain. A platoon with a compact position to defend and a central headquarters is easier to manage than one, for instance, that, for tactical reasons, has to man positions scattered over several miles of broken country. Yet a keen commander will contrive to overcome these obstacles. It is a question whether company, and still more

battalion, commanders keep a sufficiently strict watch on platoon parades. More frequent surprise visits would yield an index to both platoons' and their commanders' real efficiency. Some of the latter, it might well be found, could advantageously be asked to attend one of the excellent training courses for officers, or in some cases be replaced by men who have evinced a truer gift of leadership.

HOME-BAKED BREAD

LADY RIDLEY has taken up the cudgels in defence of the northern housewife who still bakes her own bread in her own oven as her predecessors did before her. Lord Woolton proposes to raise the price of flour and to reduce the price of bakers' bread. The idea appears to be based on the usual theory about mass-production: fuel is to be saved and labour eliminated by inducing those people who now bake their own bread to buy their bread from the baker. This sounds specious enough and might conceivably have some effect in towns, even in the north of England. But it ignores the situation of many rural households in all remote parts of the country and challenges the most cherished tradition of all North Countrywomen. Those who live in the south have, as a rule, no conception at all of the almost religious light in which the Yorkshire or Lancashire mother takes her duty as baker of bread for the family. From a social point of view she would die a thousand deaths rather than confess to laziness and neglect by being seen carrying a baker's loaf home. She knows that she is herself a past-master of the art of bread-making—an art far more varied than the baker esteems it. Her loaves and her tea-cakes are rightly the envy of her neighbours. Her currant loaf is famous for miles. She has her other cooking to do on the kitchen range. It would waste rather than conserve fuel to abandon her bread-baking. As for saving labour, there is only her own labour involved. She charges nothing for that, but the baker would have to pay someone a wage, however multiple his methods might be. Even looking at the economics of bread distribution the gain from cutting out home baking seems a negative one. Lord Woolton is a North Countryman and should have "known better." Or so they will say in those parts.

AT NIGHT

ROUND the Horseshoe Wood went I,
Noticing the star-decked sky—
Cassiopeia and Altair,
Vega with her dazzling stare,
Capella and the Pleiades,
All such shining friends as these—
And the burning brash's smell
From the worked-out quarry's well;
Sweet scent of a clover-stack
Standing near the muddy track;
Shed grey leaves a sycamore
In the summer greenly wore;
Rain-dark ones an ash tree hath
Dashed to pieces on the path;
Last field-cricket's crinkling sound,
Barking of a chained-up hound;
A small breeze at hide-and-seek
Among lofty beeches meek.

Once a bramble's long thin arm
Tugged my sleeve in false alarm.

Noticing sound, touch, smell and sight,
Round the wood I walked by night;
Round the Horseshoe Wood I went,
Filled with the night's vast wonderment.

N. L. BRIGHT, *Royal Artillery.*

WREN CHURCHES AND GUILDS

MR. JOHN SUMMERSON, who is Deputy Director of the National Buildings Record, took a decidedly realistic view about the damaged City churches in his address to the Architectural Association. To insist that all should be re-built is, he thought, futile; some were never particularly distinguished, others are destroyed beyond reconstruction. Others, such as St. Stephen's, Walbrook, St. Mary le Bow, and St. Lawrence Jewry, are either universally admired or are important "guild" centres, like St. Bride's, the "cathedral" of Fleet Street, or St. Lawrence, the City Corporation's church. These should certainly be reconstructed. Sir Giles Scott, in his recent Royal Academy Discourse on re-planning the City, accepted the possibility of some churches

not being re-built, but hoped that in all cases their towers would be preserved. They truly make the City's skyline. But Sir Giles emphasised that no high blocks of buildings should be allowed in their immediate vicinity. "The beauty and religious significance of these delicate gems of architecture are lost, indeed they become ridiculous, if they are buried, overtopped and overwhelmed, by great blocks of City offices." The burden of re-building and re-furnishing certainly ought to be shouldered, partly if not entirely, by the nation-wide communities who use, or might use, these churches.

A LOSS TO CRICKET

THE death on active service of Pilot Officer Kenneth Farnes adds one more to the growing list of those young men who, having early attained fame by their athletic prowess, have now given their lives to a more deadly game. Farnes loved cricket. As he himself told in a pleasant little book on his cricketing experiences, he walked out of the bank in which he first worked and announced to his family that he was going instead to watch the Australians at Leyton. Such firmness was not to be resisted; he went up to Cambridge, got his blue as a freshman, was a regular member of England's Test Match eleven, and then began as a schoolmaster what would no doubt have been a happy and successful life. A fast bowler with his litherness and hostility is always fascinating, and he is the more impressive if he is, as was Farnes, a tall man who brings the ball down from an alarming height. Farnes was big, tall and strong, and incidentally got his blue in the more ponderous art of weight-putting. He was to some extent a bowler of moods, on some days carrying all before him with a victorious venom, on others by comparison innocuous. Judged at his best, however, as when he put the Players to the rout in 1936, he was a really fine bowler as well as a really fast one. He played in Test matches during the summer at home and likewise in Australia and South Africa and the West Indies, and was only 30 at the time of his death.

THE PIGEON PEST

ALTHOUGH they are apparently less numerous than usual in some parts of the country, our native pigeons, when reinforced by overseas contingents, are still a menace no less formidable than that of rats to crops of almost every kind. Sporadic shooting by individuals is unfortunately of little use: nothing short of "total war" makes any real impression on creatures numbered by the million. In this connection it may be suggested that one reason—possibly the chief reason—why, despite repeated exhortations by the Ministry of Agriculture, organised shoots fall far short of their potential value, lies in the price of cartridges. Pigeon shooting, though classed as a national duty, is in fact a luxury pursuit. For medium-priced cartridges at 12s. 6d. before the war have been subject to two increases of 2s. since, and from a cost of 16s. 6d. last autumn have now risen by the purchase tax to 20s. 9d. per 100. So bang goes 2½d. every time, and at that figure few men can go out nonchalantly to any shoot designed to make a real impression on the pigeon hordes. It is only equitable that taxation should be spread, and that none of us should profit at his neighbour's expense. At the same time, if we are to assist the Government in the preservation of our food supplies, it is only reasonable to ask that our co-operation shall not be penalised. Even the good average shot would hesitate to back himself to kill 30 per cent. of high pigeons on a windy day, and it is safe to say that the difficulty of getting guns is due to the fact that few of us can afford to spend 10s. for every dozen birds brought down. Consequently for every pound accruing from the purchase tax the country is probably losing ten in crop damage which would be avoided were willing helpers less heavily burdened. Incidentally, last year, shooters were lucky to get 6d. (4d. was more like the average price) for birds which in at least two cities were being retailed at 2s. 6d. a head. This suggests that a control price, designed to cover at least to some extent the shooter's increased costs, might not only stimulate a more vigorous campaign but also put another "black market" out of business.



A RIVER'S INFANCY: THE AIRE AT MALHAM, WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

G. Bernard Wood

A COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES

By MAJOR C. S. JARVIS

TWO or three Scottish correspondents have written, in reply to my query, to say that yellow-hammers are as plentiful as ever in their part of the world, and a possible explanation is that some of our English birds have migrated northwards in search of the flint and gravel roads they like to frequent. Such conditions are hard to find in the south of England where district councils now treat with tar all the lanes and by-ways as well as the main roads, and one does not see to-day those cheery dusting parties of larks, yellow-hammers, and sometimes partridges, that were such a common sight in the past.

Some time ago I started the hare about big gatherings of magpies, and this animal is still running steadily, with reports coming in almost every week of assemblies that run into hundreds. I have never seen the birds gathered together in such vast numbers myself, but on the other hand I do notice to-day far more magpies than one used to see some three or four years ago, and every patch of woodland seems now to hold a pair of screaming jays. As I write there are four jays having a difference of opinion in the oak tree in front of my window. This may be only a local condition, but on the other hand from all parts of Britain there are reports of a great increase in every form of vermin, and this of course is due to the reduction of keepers.

ANOTHER very common sight to-day is a stoat hunting a rabbit in broad daylight, but this is not definite proof that the stoat is increasing in numbers. The truth of the matter is that the stoat is severely rationed in these times, and though he may be registered for his supplies in the neighbouring warren it is by no means certain that he will obtain his requirements there, for so many other wild animals are drawing on this shrinking food reserve; not to mention local agricultural committees using cyanide gas. This being the case, when a stoat does get on to the line of that rare animal the rabbit, he is not going to let human beings, traffic or dogs interfere with his dinner, and is, as the result, far more obvious than he was in

the past when he could afford to take his time and exercise some discretion over the catching of his meals.

The other day my two dogs, together with a stoat, hunted the same rabbit in a patch of gorse for the best part of 10 minutes. From time to time I caught glimpses of the quarry and the two hunting parties, and it was quite obvious that the stoat was not going to give up the chase because a pair of blundering idiots were doing their best to make a mess of things. When finally the dogs gingered up the half-mesmerised rabbit sufficiently for it to break cover and make a get-away, the stoat came out of the gorse to watch, chattering with rage and using the most appalling language.

The whole business reminded me of a scene that occurred in the village butcher's shop recently when an aggressive-looking woman with a bulging basket was short-headed for the last pound of sausages by a fragile blonde, who looked as if she had never worried about such mundane things as sausages in her life.

THE keeper and his "larder" have been held up to contempt and condemnation for years because occasionally among his exhibits were found barn owls, which are well worth their absurdly light weight in gold for the useful work they do, together with peregrines, buzzards and other rare hawks, whose good deeds are not so obvious. On the other hand the maligned keeper did see that the jay and magpie population was kept within reasonable bounds, and when one remembers that in the spring these rascals live almost entirely on the eggs and nestlings of other and more useful birds, not to mention partridges and pheasants, one must admit that the keeper's good deeds outweighed his lapses.

AFTER a recent military exercise in this part of the world, a circular letter was sent round to all units calling attention to the lack of precautions taken in some places against the evil machinations of "spies" and "fifth-columnists." Several instances were quoted of "spies" gaining access to offices

where they were able to see maps, and there was one particular case where an "enemy" staff colonel so impressed sentries and officers by his tabs and scarlet hatband that secret files, plans of operations, and even cigarettes were produced for his perusal and consumption.

After this the gilded staff will know where they get off, and they must not grumble if, hostile or friendly, they spend 24 hours of the next exercise locked up in a cellar on bread and water. In our heart of hearts we all resent the awe and servility the red-banded cap exacts from the wearer of its unadorned brother, and if encouraged suitably and officially we are quite willing to do something about it. Many of us have not forgotten the last war and the staff leave train from Victoria, where youthful A.D.C.'s, blazing in unblemished scarlet, lolled at their ease while lieutenant-colonels and majors of the trench-living "P.B.I." stood up in the corridors of the ordinary. The trouble with the Australian soldier is in the opposite direction. There is the famous story, a chestnut to many, of the Commander-in-Chief of the last war who, when passing a solitary "digger" leading a horse, failed to extract a salute from him.

"Do you know who I am?" asked the C.-in-C.

"No," said the Australian laconically.

"I am the Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force."

"And a damned good job too," said the unimpressed Australian. "If you take my tip you'll hang on to it."

SPEAKING at Hornsey on October 18 Lord Croft said: "My deliberate opinion is that the Home Guard will block any invaders from sea or air until our mobile Regular Army is able to crush them. Whether the invader lands on our shores or drops from the skies, the Home Guard will have to fight *à outrance*."

Well, if this is the considered opinion of the Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary for War, it is so difficult to understand why certain members of the Home Guard have been fined in police courts for arming themselves in preparation for the task they are to perform.

THE POWER OF THE IKON

By NEGLEY FARSON

THE Russians' reverence for all art which has a historical value compelled the Soviets to re-build shattered churches, destroy others (such as the Church of Our Saviour in Moscow) which, they said, were built to the glory of the Tsars and not to God; and, in particular, to restore the holy ikons. They began this work about the same time as they put the slogan over the shrine of the Iberian Virgin, leading into Moscow's Red Square: "Religion is the Opiate of the People." The Western world has heard a great deal of the godless attitude of the Soviets towards the Church; it has not yet heard enough about the restoration and preservation of these marvellous ikons.

The ikon is essentially a shrine before which one can worship. Every Orthodox Russian had one in his home, usually dozens of them, very often hundreds. The best ikons are the severest, painted on flat slabs of wood. After these came the degenerative embellishments of gold, silver, jewelled robes—and the bronze, cast ikon, with enamel mosaic.

After the Revolution the Russians began collecting these ikons from the palaces, the wealthy city houses, from country estates, from churches, monasteries, even from peasant huts. As long ago as the winter of 1928-29 there were 30,000 of them in the Historical Museum at Moscow alone. In that winter the Soviets temporarily closed this museum, discharged its director, Professor Anisimov, foremost ikon expert in the world (who gave me the photographs reproduced here of ikons in restoration); and the reason they gave for closing it was because of the "demoralising effect of these ikons upon the people."

This admission brings out a fact of great importance concerning ikons which has hitherto been almost unmentioned in Europe. The ikon has a long, bloody history, beginning with the controversy whether there should be such things or not. In the wars between the partisans of image-worship and the iconoclasts, which



1.—SHATTERED CHURCH CUPOLAS AT YAROSLAVL WHERE WHITE GUARDS FOUGHT THEIR LAST FIGHT IN 1918
Years later the churches of Yaroslavl were restored or re-built by the Communists

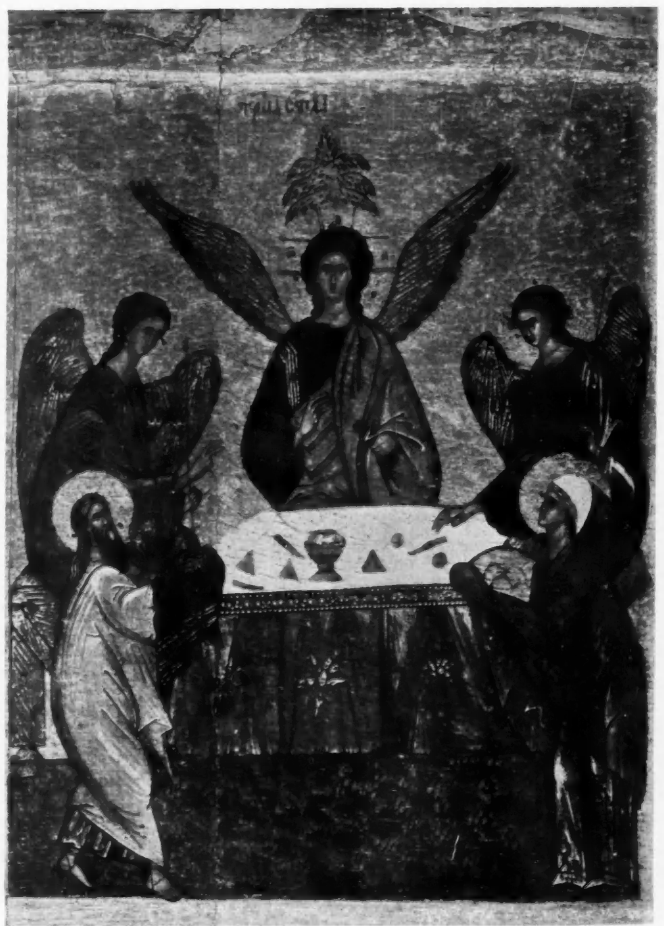
split the primitive Church in the eighth and ninth centuries, the iconoclasts—the image-breakers—believed that a material representation of any divine personage was a profanity. The partisans, led by their doctors, actually believed that these images (the ikons) were not merely representations, but that they were emanations of the archetype—vehicles of the

supernatural personality represented—and that they were possessed of an inherent sacramental value and power, such as the name of Jesus had for the earliest believers. Russian belief in the ikon borders on the belief in magic. And it is a belief held to this day—not only among peasants.

It is not until you are able to grasp this belief in the magic and miracle-working power



2.—IKON OF THE ADORATION, NOVGOROD SCHOOL, FIFTEENTH CENTURY



3.—THE TRINITY, CHARACTERISTIC OF THE NOVGOROD SCHOOL, FOURTEENTH CENTURY

of the ikon that you can understand its stubborn persistence in so many households under the atheist Communists; nor the common spectacle of peasants, beggars, workmen, men and women from the Old Régime, fearlessly prostrating themselves before the Iberian Virgin at the gates of Moscow's Red Square, under the very eyes of Red soldiers and policemen, in that very godless winter of 1928-29. Nor, if it comes to that, will you understand the apparent apathy of the Red soldiers watching them.

This wonder-working ikon was believed to be so miraculous that in the old days rich Russian merchants paid to have Her taken from Her shrine, carried through the streets of Moscow in a carriage drawn by six horses, led by bare-headed attendants, and carried from room to room of their house during their most moments on earth—or even to dress family festivals.

Also, unless you can comprehend the "power" attributed to these ikons, you are unable to conceive how the early monks, priests, even the peasants who painted them managed to get such a sublime, austere holiness into the faces of, certainly, the early, true-Russian school of the Novgorod-Vladimir ikons. And you cannot realise even the full mystic force of these painted plaques of wood until you see an ikon-restorer, with his burning spirits and scalpel, peeling off the dirt, candle soot, the gold, silver, and jewelled embellishments, the degenerate faces painted over the purer early ones, until is laid bare the full fanatic austerity of saints and holy scenes—at which not even an atheist could stare without a thrill.

From a scientist's point of view this restoration was a labour of love, done by unbelievably expert crafts-



4.—THE MOTHER AND CHILD

Parts of this ikon, originally Byzantine, were painted at different times between the eleventh and nineteenth centuries

men, whose unbreakable rule was: no touching-up, no re-painting. But, watching them at work, you invariably had the feeling that they themselves were caught in the spell of the holy scenes they were revealing. And to watch the centuries being peeled away from the astonishing power of the early ikon is an emotional experience that must stir any Westerner into a belief himself in the permanency of the Orthodox Russian faith.

"I love it, love it, love it; it's the finest ikon in all the world!"

Thus spoke Davidov to me as I watched him working on the ikon of St. Nicholas, thirteenth century—now one of the most famous in the world—while the white snow blazed outside us in the rose-coloured Kremlin of old Novgorod.

Davidov, now engaged in finishing the restoration, had been working on it for over a year. The white light with which the snow filled the room brought out its colours vividly.

I watched Davidov work all that cold morning on a space of about two square inches. It was shocking to watch; he seemed so drastic! Dipping a paint-brush in a bottle of prepared spirits he smeared this over the jewelled robe and then lighted it. When the flame died he rubbed some more of the preparation over the hot paint. As he rubbed the precious robe turned into a yellow scum. This Davidov deftly removed with the scalpel. "One—two—three—four—" he said as he ruthlessly removed the jewels. He said contemptuously: "This jewellery represents a decadent epoch. There was no need for jewels with the pure Novgorod or Vladimir ikon. This is the decadent influence of Europe."

He then spoke of Novgorod



5 AND 6.—IKONS DURING THE LONG PROCESS OF RESTORATION

No. 5 is an ikon of St. Nicholas. In No. 6 the restoration has revealed a second left eye



7.—OUR LORD TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL ON A MOUNTAIN

The painter's crude idea of a mountain contrasts with the delicacy of the work

when this ikon was first being created. Novgorod was one of the greatest cities in the world in those days. The great white walls of St. Sophia Church had been standing nearly 200 years. Novgorod had its own factory on the Norse island of Visby, was trading with Byzantium and Arabia to the east, with the Black Sea in the south, with the Scandinavians to the north; and at the time when John of England and his knights were gnawing bones in their banqueting halls, there were 400,000 people within Novgorod's walls.

All this was shown in the ikon painted for this great Church stronghold; it was in the assurance of its convincing colours, in its confident freedom, in its powerful richness. It was there, in the ikon, in the painted story of St. Nicholas. Nicholas came from Asia Minor. His powerful face on the golden ikon is tanned, his thinking forehead high-domed; his nose is imperious, sharp, aquiline. His hair is scant, short-cut and grey; and he wears a close-cropped grey beard. But his eyes!—one must resort to that abused expression: The Holy Fire. For there it burns. His eyes are not arrogant: they burn with Faith. It is an expression which was lost to ikon painters, never to be regained. And it is not the work of a solitary inspired man, possibly a genius—for over 100 men worked on this ikon of St. Nicholas at the same time.

This famous ikon is bigger than most doors. Around the great central figure of the Saint are sixteen panels, showing the events of his life; his birth, his ordination; he sets out, reaches an Eastern city—you see him above the bowed populace; he is being brought gifts—a man brings a horse, and both horse and man kneel to him. He crosses a sea—done in beautiful cream waves—and above him three black devils dangle by their legs. They are supposed to show the three catastrophes that might befall him on the way, which he must have overcome; for another panel shows him turning the government of a huge city over to a humble peasant—an object lesson in humility. And what painted propaganda for an illiterate peasant's eyes!

Remember that these holy ikons were being painted by people who really believed they were creating emanations. Possibly many of them were illiterate themselves. Certainly many of them had never travelled; they strove to picture the Divine Life—yet most of these

Russian ikon painters had never even seen a mountain.

Hence you have ikons like that in Fig. 7, these symbolic, imaginary flakes of rock being the monks' idea of what a mountain really looked like. You find this *motif*, almost standardised, in nearly all Russian ikons where the Devil takes Our Lord up on the mountain to tempt Him. And look at the palaces he is showing Him. In the Stroganov school, always done in minute panels, the cities, Kremlins, and scenes depicted in delicate rose red, blue, gold, seem to come to life as you regard them. Small wonder that even their creators regarded them as supernatural. Faith, more than skill, guided their hands.



9.—PRIEST IN A BOWLER HAT

Photographed by Mr. Farson at Kiev in 1929



8.—VLADIMIR VIRGIN. FOURTEENTH CENTURY

The *motif* of the central figure was introduced to Russia by Dutch artists

Greek painters, bringing the ikon from Byzantium, very often pictured the faces of aristocratic Byzantine youth instead of taxing their powers to portray saints. Succeeding centuries of Russian monks painted over original ikons and church frescoes with the *abandon* with which you would paint your house when you thought it needed a coat. The Dutch came in and almost prostituted the Russian religious purity with the fleshy saints of Simon Ushakov, looking like fat, stuffed Dutch merchants themselves, their eyes cynical and scheming. And the Dutch artists returned to Europe with a *motif*, taken from ikons such as that shown in Fig. 8, which they Europeanised in their devotional paintings. All this with the metal, silver and gold appliqué, and the jewels appliqué during the decadent centuries, the modern ikon-restorers are casting away.

The ikon of the Iberian Virgin stood below my window which faced Moscow's Red Kremlin. I saw her being removed. One morning I watched a Red soldier wrestling with the golden Angel and the Cross which stood above her shrine. He overcame the Angel. He cast it down into the cobbled street where it was driven off with the Iberian Virgin.

All afternoon I searched Moscow to find the Virgin. At last I discovered Her in a back yard of a poor house off one of Moscow's richest streets. Three priests were standing guard over Her. They had already found some wild flowers and put them in ordinary table glasses before Her to make a shrine. They were grim in their dignity—utterly fearless.

I thought: Purified by the fire of the Revolution—sustained by their faith in these ikons—the priests and monks who survive the present ordeal of the Church in Russia will be some of the finest disciples of Christ in all history.

I had many ikons in my London home. The most precious was an atrocious object that I bought, out of pity, from a desperate member of the Old Régime in frozen old Rostoff. Even I knew the ikon itself was a piece of decadent trash, but it had a peculiar, plain, gold-like bronze cross dapped into it.

"But this is really valuable," exclaimed Professor Anisimov, when I showed it to him in Moscow; "that bronze-gold cross is splendid workmanship, very old."

MASS PRODUCTION OF POTTERY

By HARRY TRETHOWAN

TO lovers of beauty in everyday things the words "mass production" sound like a death knell. There are, however, many things that can be mass-produced to the benefit of the many, and thus articles once hand-made that were beyond the reach of the masses are now easily obtainable. Produced by the thousand, they are less expensive and more readily acquired. Such machine-produced articles in some instances are even more efficient when manufactured under such conditions.

Metal goods of all descriptions—such necessary things as knives, forks, spoons and a host of other similar domestic implements—come to mind. But when a craft has become a considerable industry, such as the craft of pottery-making, the subject makes lovers of beauty hesitate. Pottery-making is more individual than most other crafts, yet the purpose of this article is to consider how the process of mass production could be, and is being, applied to this particular industry.

If we take a trip to the Five Towns, we shall realise that the process is actually in being. Here we have a fragile article of utility that is continuously in evidence in the common life of the population. Every day, many times of the day, cups and saucers, plates, dishes, egg cups, jugs and teapots are brought out for the several meals, tables are laid and cleared and utensils are cleansed, making more work for the housewife than any other domestic object. Handles are broken and plates chipped, and the spouts of teapots have an uncanny way of getting damaged. Thousands upon thousands of such pieces are produced in the potteries every week and it is a continuous performance.

How are these things produced? It is said that a cup goes through a thousand processes before it is adaptable for its service. While in the past our forefathers made such things on the wheel, and every piece was hand-thrown in the primitive fashion of ancient times, the hand and the eye still play an important part in manufacture.

The art of pottery-making is still individual, and every gadget designed for simplification of the process has in it a reminder of the facility and peculiar qualities of the material used in the making. Clay has the same propensities as of old, and all machines that make production more rapid, so as to meet the constant demand, call for hand and eye direction. The terms used by the potters are only appreciated after it has been possible to witness the manufacture.

On our tour we visit each section in turn, and if we are privileged to visit the new Wedgwood Works at Barlaston we shall discover the latest and most up-to-date arrangements for producing the wares, which lose nothing of the quality and form and line that have characterised the work of this firm since the days of its illustrious founder.

Here we see girls making cups and saucers as swiftly as knives are made in Sheffield. Here the expert man produces perfect plates by the dozen, as you watch, and, as far as you are concerned, you say the quickness of the hand deceives the eye. But the cups are without handles, and thus the cup is passed to another girl who knows everything about the importance of handle attachment.



CONVEYERS ON WHICH WARE IS PLACED AFTER BEING "DIPPED" AND RUN THROUGH THE DRYING CHAMBERS
A section of the new Wedgwood Works at Barlaston

Teapots and coffee-pots once made entirely by hand are produced by pouring clay into the prepared mould and, to the inexperienced eye, have nothing to be ashamed of when compared with the completely hand-made pots. There are differences, and the expert detects them.

Applied decoration, such as clay on clay, is associated with the names of famous artists and famous potters. Suppose the demand exceeds beyond dreams that of the early days, is there a way to overcome the slower process and get the same results? Maybe. Mass production is a daily experience in the potteries and to all appearances we have lost nothing by the way, but we can lose the charm, beauty and delicacy of the form and substance if care is not taken when planning to create on such a large scale.

I repeat that pottery-making is individual, and in the twentieth century, when selecting wares produced in Stoke-on-Trent, we want to be assured that we are selecting the characteristic wares of Wedgwood, Copeland, Spode, Minton, Doulton, and the distinctive quality of other makers. A plea has been made for standardisation of the clay articles provided for our use, but standardisation has a bad taste and would destroy good taste.

We accept the machinery that has been set up to produce more and more beautiful things within the reach of the leanest purse, but we condemn standards in shape at the outset.

Concentration of industry resulting from the demands of war-time conditions is causing much heart-burning in the potteries because of this very evident problem of the individual. Whatever the Government expert, Civil servant or even the President of the Board of Trade may decide, it will be a serious loss to England, and a serious blow to our overseas trade, if such an industry is forced into a standardised mould.

Design and the culture of good taste play a great part in this industry, and if so-called superfluous works are closed at the dictation of an over-zealous department we are likely to lose the teams which, although small, are the life-blood of the industry. If we are likely to make more and more cups and saucers we must remember that somewhere, and in many places, there must be cultivated a quality corner.

Moulds, which are being used increasingly, are capable of producing any shape demanded; but pots were thrown on the wheel, growing under the expert pressure of the sensitive fingers of the thrower, and there are only certain things that are possible in the manipulation of clay in the hands of the potter. The Staffordshire potter remembers this, and devises his machinery accordingly.

So long as certain things are remembered,

we may welcome without fear processes that are capable of producing more and more beautiful things for our daily use and pleasure. So the plea for mass production is accepted as long as the machine does not dominate the man, as is the case in too many manufactures. The designer who is alive to the nature of the material, and who knows the uses intended, who has a respect for the best our nation has produced in the past, to him we delegate the important function of designing for and dominating the essential machine.

Our forefathers were always looking out for new materials, new methods, new tools, and among the most enterprising was the founder of English pottery-making for the people—Josiah Wedgwood. But he was first concerned with the design, and to attain his ambition he sought and found good artists, whatever their previous occupation in the world of art, and used them to our lasting joy. He set the example that we should always do well to follow.

Design good articles and make thousands if it is possible, but the art must not be swallowed up and overwhelmed by the industrial spirit. This article, I hope, may reveal that in the pottery industry this plea will never be rejected by those who have the right attitude to this heritage of pottery manufacture in the best English manner.



IN THE SORTING WAREHOUSE



ARMY MUGS BEING PACKED

HOW FAST DO BIRDS FLY?

By FRANK W. LANE

ALTHOUGH more speeds have been recorded for birds than for any other creatures, wide differences exist between the published figures for various species. It is easy to understand the reason; if any one of a number of factors concerning a bird's speed is neglected, erroneous or misleading figures may result.

What are the factors involved in timing the speed of a bird? I think the following list covers them:

- (1) Velocity and direction of the wind at the height and in the immediate vicinity of the bird.
- (2) Direction (including gain or loss of height) in which the bird to be timed is flying.
- (3) Distance covered.
- (4) Whether the bird keeps a fairly even pace for the course over which it is timed.
- (5) Type of flight and condition of bird.

Interesting and, within limits, valuable records can be obtained without all these conditions being observed (and I admit it is extremely difficult to observe them all), but a brief explanation will show how misleading figures can be obtained when these conditions are ignored.

(1) A wind blowing in the same direction as that in which a bird is flying virtually adds its own speed to that of the bird, and a contrary wind has the reverse effect.

(2) The direction in which the bird is flying must, therefore, be known, and it must also be known whether it is getting any increase or decrease of speed from the action of gravity.

(3) and (4) Knowledge of the distance flown is an obvious necessity, and unless this is covered at a fairly even pace the result will show the average for two or more types of flying-speed.

(5) Generally speaking a bird has three types of flying-speed: normal, accelerated or maximum (generally when chasing or being chased) and, in many cases, migration. A few other birds, for example the peregrine falcon and golden



A. Brook

GOLDEN EAGLE, WHICH HAS BEEN TIMED AT 90 MILES AN HOUR

It sometimes uses the stoop, or power dive

eagle, sometimes use also the stoop or power-dive. Even in the same species considerable differences of flying-speed are noticeable. Age, state of plumage, health and other physical factors modify the bird's powers of flight. One member of a covey of partridges has been observed to fly 15 per cent. faster than the others when all were in full panic flight before a falcon.

Ideally, therefore, any record which purports to represent the speed for any given species of bird under any one of the types of flying mentioned above should be for a bird in perfect condition.

In passing, I should like to refer the reader to C. Horton-Smith's able little book *The Flight of Birds* (Witherby). In the chapter entitled *The Velocity of Flight* the author gives some valuable hints to the bird-watcher who desires to try his hand at obtaining reliable flying-speed figures.

TIMING BY AEROPLANE

Fortunately there are one or two timing methods available in which all the conditions I have mentioned can be met. And in the case of timing by aeroplane speedometer nearly all the conditions are fulfilled. In my view, timing by aeroplane speedometer is the most satisfactory method yet devised for obtaining the flying-speeds of birds which cannot well be timed by laboratory methods.

In France birds have been harnessed by silk thread to an indicator which recorded the amount of line taken out as the bird flew and the time occupied. A simple calculation then gave the speed in miles an hour. The works of Marey, Houssay and Magnan should be consulted for details of this method.

Another indoor method, used in this country to find the pace of a bird shortly after it has risen from the sportsman's feet, was particularly ingenious. In a covered range, where no wind-complications would be met, birds were made to fly 40 yds. and then pass through two screens made of a very fine invisible cotton. The time taken was recorded by electrical chronograph, and then the speed was worked out into miles an hour. By this method it was found that partridge and pheasant, just after being flushed, attain a speed of about 30 miles an hour, the heavier bird being slightly the faster.

When pigeons were timed by a similar apparatus the speeds varied between 26 and 34 miles an hour. But in the case of all three



A STORK TAKING OFF FROM ITS NEST

birds I think it can be taken that the distance flown before the testing distance was too short to enable maximum speed to be attained.

Some years ago members of the Royal Air Force were asked to report data concerning the flight of birds which they met during their patrols. Some interesting figures and facts were obtained. One pilot reported that he had met a flock of 40 cock ostriches cruising at 17,000ft.!

Here is a list of speeds (in miles an hour) obtained by aeroplane timing:

Partridge 40; brent goose 45; gannet 48; lapwing 50; snow goose 50 (this bird was being chased); swan 55; Canada goose 60 (chased); mallard (wild duck) 60 (for 10 miles); pintail 65; teal 68 (chased); canvas back duck 72 (chased); golden eagle 90; American cloud swift 95 (this bird circled round a 'plane travelling at 85 miles an hour); lammergeyer or great bearded vulture 110 (this bird was nose-diving); swallow 150; duck hawk or American peregrine falcon 200 plus.

DUCK HAWK'S RECORD

I regard the record of 150 miles an hour for the swallow with some hesitation although other evidence suggests that a swallow can at times exceed 100 miles an hour. The 200 miles an hour of the duck hawk is one of the most amazing records I know. It first appeared in an American publication, *The Bulletin of the Essex County Ornithological Club*, and has been repeated in the great *Life Histories of North American Birds* which is in course of publication by the U.S. National Museum under the editorship of that veteran American ornithologist, A. C. Bent.

The incident was recounted to Ralph Lawson by an expert aviator in whom Lawson had great confidence. Lawson wrote:

"He (the aviator) was flying a small pursuit 'plane, which had a normal speed of about 125 miles an hour and, while cruising about at a considerable altitude, he saw a bunch of ducks flying far below and ahead of him. Thinking to gain some experience in diving at a moving object, he turned the nose of his 'plane down and opened the throttle of his engine, thereby gaining speed rapidly. While he was still some distance from the ducks he glanced at the wing-tip of his 'plane to see how much vibration his swoop was causing, and as he did so a hawk shot by him 'as though the 'plane was standing still,' and struck one of the ducks which fell towards the ground apparently lifeless. At the time the hawk passed the 'plane the latter was travelling at a speed of nearly 175 miles an hour, and my friend thinks that the hawk was stooping two feet to his one, but of course that is only an estimate, as under the conditions no accurate computation was possible. We do know, however, that this particular hawk was moving at a rate of speed much greater than 175 miles an hour and perhaps not far from double that rate."

In support of this statement regarding the tremendous speed of this most magnificent of all flyers two other records may be quoted. A duck hawk which was timed while it was hunting over a fairly large field recorded a top speed of 180 miles an hour. The other record comes from H. Mortimer Batten, who tells how, when he was living on the shores of Loch Ken, "a peregrine used occasionally to come hurtling down the face of the Bannan for a matter of 1,000ft. or so, in order to put the breeze up the wild fowl feeding on the loch. I never saw him strike at them, but, as his headlong descent down the mountain terminated, he would



A MARSH HARRIER ON A RAIDING FLIGHT MAKES OFF WITH A YOUNG COOT IN ITS TALONS



Alan D. Cruickshank

THE STREAM-LINE FLIGHT OF THE WOOD IBIS

corkscrew clean across the loch by sheer inertia, literally revolving at a giddy speed for the space of over a mile. It was, of course, difficult to judge, but it certainly seemed that he covered that mile over the water in the space of about ten seconds!" Or 360 miles an hour!

Another bird which makes use of the power-dive and thus reaches tremendous speeds is that amazing pigeon known as the "Oriental sharp-shooter." Pigeon-fanciers keep this bird in a loft with a very large opening and in a place free from obstacles. Both these precautions are necessary in view of the thunderbolt-like tactics of the sharpshooter.

When the fancier enters the loft he flips one of the birds and it immediately takes off and "towers" to an immense height. When it is but a mere dot in the heavens the fancier signals by waving a large cloth or similar object.

On receiving this signal the pigeon folds its wings and falls headlong to earth. The bird soon reaches maximum velocity, and its tremendous stoop causes a shrill whining sound like the high-pitched note of a shell screaming through the air.

Just before it reaches its loft the sharp-shooter opens its wings, back-pedals violently and, still falling at a fast rate, bursts into its coop and lands, looking somewhat giddy, on its perch.

Eagles, also, are masters of the power-dive. This aerial manoeuvre has been witnessed particularly with the bald and golden eagles.

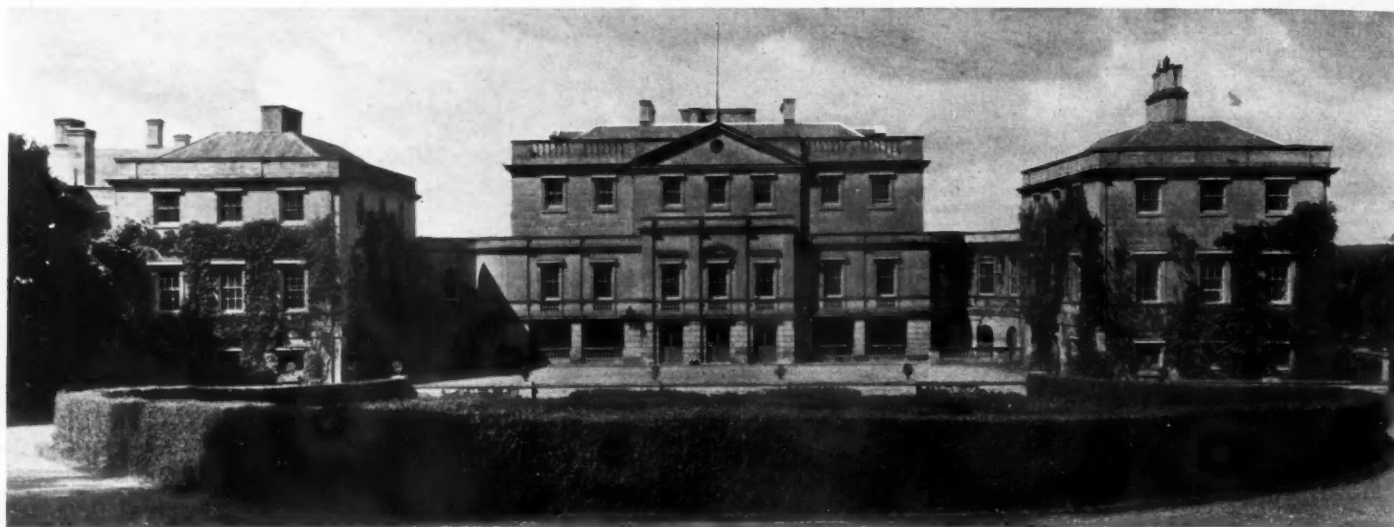
I don't know if it is a common habit of the golden eagle, but William Brewster records having seen one of these eagles "revolving like a spinning bullet, if more slowly" during its headlong descent to earth. He says that on one occasion the noise made by the eagle as it neared the earth was like the sound of "a strong wind blowing through pine branches."

As it is a much heavier bird than either the peregrine falcon or the "Oriental sharp-shooter" the maximum velocity attained by a golden eagle after a stoop from an immense height (and they have been known to soar over two miles high) must be colossal. Seton Gordon, who probably knows more about golden eagles than any other man, says he has known one descend some 5,000ft. in six seconds. And that works out at 570 miles an hour—the speed of a fighter 'plane in a power-dive, or the muzzle velocity of a revolver bullet!

(Left) HUNDREDS OF SPARROWS IN FLIGHT



C. W. Teager



1.—THE ENTRANCE FRONT

The main façade remodelled by Sir R. Smirke for Archbishop Harcourt after 1832

NUNEHAM COURTENAY, OXON.—I

THE SEAT OF VISCOUNT HARCOURT

Built by the first Earl Harcourt about 1760 from designs by Leadbetter; enlarged, and the landscape improved, for George Simon second Earl, by "Capability" Brown, and the original gardens laid out by the Rev. William Mason, about 1780

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT, the Liberal statesman, used to say that, if he had been the elder son and owner of Nuneham, he would have been a Tory. What was a truism in the days of Disraeli and Gladstone did not prevent his son Louis from sustaining both the arcadian reputation of Nuneham and a part in later Liberal politics which restored the Harcourts to the peerage. The remark, however, was probably intended less as a criticism of possessions' influence on political probity than as a tribute to the idyllic beauty conferred on this famous reach of the Thames by preceding generations at Nuneham, the maintenance of which, as with so much of eighteenth-century England, might well be closer to the hearts of its heirs, in Victorian

times, than liberal reform and free trade. To-day the future of such places as Nuneham, infinitely more acute than when income tax was 6d. in the pound, is recognised as less a question of party politics than a problem of national planning. During the war, Nuneham has been adapted for work of national importance, owing to which it is not possible to illustrate the interiors with any degree of justice. But the gardens and landscape setting, for close on two centuries regarded as the place's outstanding features, have been so admirably kept up, indeed improved, during the last 25 years, as alone to justify illustration at this juncture. And in doing so the story begun at Stanton Harcourt (COUNTRY LIFE, October 3 and 10) can be carried on.

Iffley, Sandford with its lasher, then Nuneham, are the villages on the left bank of the Thames down-stream from Oxford. Punting up the river from Abingdon, a pastoral curving reach brings the house into view set back on a slope among hanging woods, its garden fronts looking diagonally down the reach which here flows from north to south. There is no lovelier stretch of the Thames, and a cottage on a wooded eyot off the foot of the park has long hospitably received boating parties from the University. The landscape, one of the masterpieces of "Capability" Brown, consists in a wide amphitheatre of stately trees, with the house, as it were, in the centre of the dress-circle, and the river the orchestra. Away to the left, from the terrace in front of the house, a grove of beeches, known as Brown's Walk, curves along the slope towards a distant Object, which is none other than the original Carfax conduit, erected at the Oxford cross-roads in 1610, and removed and re-erected here in 1787. To the right of the terrace, walks leading through hanging groves form, with wide sloping lawns and vistas to a classical church on the crest of the hill, the main shrub and flower gardens, with the original handling of which William Mason, author of that charming didactic poem *The English Garden*, had much to do. The creators of these scenes, with Brown's and Mason's help, and that of Whitehead the Poet Laureate for appropriate inscriptions on incidental urns and seats, were George Simon, second Earl Harcourt, and his wife Elizabeth Vernon: he a keener amateur painter than a Master of the Horse to George III, she, in private, the writer of occasional poems that delighted and surprised their friend Horace Walpole.

This charming couple succeeded to Nuneham in 1777, where the house had already been built by Simon, first Earl Harcourt, in about 1760. He was the grandson and successor of the Lord Chancellor, who had bought the Nuneham property in 1710, the year after he had made his name as Attorney-General by winning the Sacheverell Case. He was the Viscount Harcourt, the friend of Pope and Gay and Prior, who established Pope in the tower of the old Stanton Harcourt



2.—CYPHER AND CORONET OF THE LATE LORD HARCOURT IN TOPIARY, FACING THE ENTRY FRONT



(Above) 3.—THE SETTING OF THE HOUSE AS SEEN FROM THE THAMES

(Right) 4.—A GLIMPSE UP A BACKWATER FROM LOCK BRIDGE

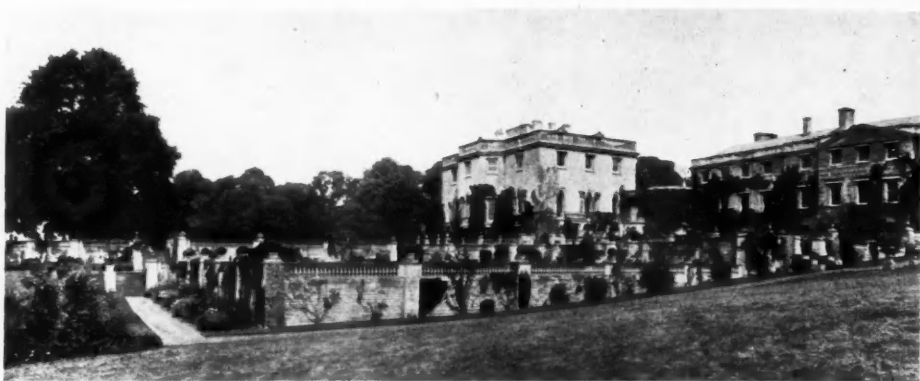


(Below) 5. — THE GARDEN FRONT, OF WEATHERED GOLDEN STONE



manor house, living himself at Cokethorpe near by. Why he bought Nuneham is not recorded; it was scarcely nearer to Abingdon, which he represented in Parliament, than his paternal home or the house that he built for himself. There was then only a small old manor house on the property, with an adjoining village round the mediæval church on the hill overlooking the river, all of which have disappeared, and he rarely lived in it. It is to be supposed that he was sensitive to the exceptional nature of the situation, besides being a wealthy man with money to invest. The death of his only surviving son in 1720 may have discouraged him from doing anything with it himself, and his own death in 1727, when he was succeeded by an infant grandson, further postponed improvements. The latter, a man of agreeable manners, and what was regarded as immense fortune, attached himself to the Court. As a Lord of the Bedchamber to George II he was present at Dettingen, and ultimately attained the rank of General, besides being created an Earl in 1749 and serving as Governor to the future George III. He quickly resigned this post, not, as Horace Walpole unkindly opined, because he was unable to teach the young prince "other arts than he knew himself, hunting and drinking," but because he disagreed with the absolutist doctrines encouraged by the Princess. One final personal service he rendered to George III: he married Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz by proxy for his Sovereign, and escorted her to England. In 1758 he was Ambassador in Paris, and four years later was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Though Horace Walpole, who evidently did not like him in spite of his friendship for his son, described him as "civil and sheepish," he met his end in a manner that commends itself to all Englishmen: by falling down a well at Nuneham in an attempt to rescue a favourite dog. And his building operations there certainly betoken an eye for the possibilities of a splendid site.

It is not recorded when he built the new house at Nuneham. Such evidence as there is suggests just prior to 1760 and his embassy in Paris. His architect was a little-known London man, F. Leadbetter, designer of various buildings that have since disappeared in the Portland Place region, including the original Foley House on the site of the Langham Hotel, and the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford (1759-70). It is not clear whether this latter job preceded or was the result of his employment at Nuneham. To the family's subsequent regret, much of old Stanton Harcourt was demolished to yield materials for Nuneham. The house must have been more or less completed by 1765, as Cokethorpe was



6.—TERRACES FORMED BY THE LATE LORD HARCOURT

Their effectiveness as an emplacement for the house is to be seen by comparison with Fig. 7



7.—THE SAME VIEW IN ABOUT 1780

From a water-colour by Paul Sandby. One of the trees on the left survives and is incorporated in the terracing

sold in that year. The building of the new house involved not only the demolition of the old manor house, but the removal of the village and its reconstruction along the main Oxford-Henley road, where its twin rows of neat brick detached cottages are familiar. With Milton Abbas, Dorset, this is one of the classic cases of the shifting of an entire village from the vicinity of a mansion, and also one of the first instances of a village being reconstructed by a landlord. It is perhaps noteworthy that this work was done under no sense of obligation to the tenants, but purely for the landlord's convenience. It is not recorded where the original village stood, but its church presumably occupied the site of the new one (Fig. 11) erected in 1764 by "Athenian" Stuart, from a design stated to have been proposed by the Earl

Simon himself. It stands on a knoll to the north of the house, round which the gardens have been laid out. In its garth stands a mural monument from the old church to the Pollard family who owned Nuneham Courtenay from the fifteenth to the seventeenth century. This Devonshire family succeeded the Courtenays who had held it since the time of Magna Carta, previous to which it was a manor of Redvers, Earls of Devon—a singular instance of an estate passing through a succession of families connected principally with another and distant county. Since 1880, when another church was built closer to the village, the Georgian building has been the domestic chapel. It contains the stately tomb of Sir William Harcourt (died 1904), and handsome walnut choir stalls from Italy introduced with other fittings by the late Viscount Harcourt.

"Nuneham astonished me," Walpole recorded after his first visit in 1773, "with the first *coup d'oeil* of its ugliness, and the next day it charmed me. It is as rough as a bear, but capable of being made a most agreeable scene." The approach down a slope from the north-east (Fig. 1) was no doubt intentionally kept plain. The area in front of the house was laid out, by the late Viscount Harcourt, in topiary representing his cypher and coronet (Fig. 2). The dignified block of the house with its (originally smaller) wings blocks the view, which does not burst upon the arrival until he is conducted to the terrace side. The enlargement of the wings was evidently undertaken, together with the improvement of the grounds, by the second Earl as soon as he succeeded. In 1778 William Mason, writing from his vicarage in Yorkshire, strongly recommended Carr of York for this work, enclosing a design for wings, one of them to include a two-storey kitchen, linked to the house by colonnades. Apparently Lord Harcourt regarded them as involving too great a cost, and Colonel Harcourt, in a note to the correspondence in



8.—NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE

Moved by the first Earl from the vicinity of the house and church and re-built on the Oxford-Henley road. One of the earliest instances, with Milton Abbas, Dorset, of village-planning

The Harcourt Papers, stated that they were not carried out on that account. The *Dictionary of Architecture* asserts that the enlarged wings were in fact designed by "Capability" Brown, who, in a letter of the same year, promised to come to Nuneham from Burghley. Mason undertook to be present at the meeting, apologising for having misunderstood what was required:

In your two former letters I concluded, from your laying so much stress on a whole wing for yourself and your lady, that your principal view in making the alterations was to do like other Lords & Ladys and make the house unnecessary to be lived in and only to be seen.

Miss Dorothy Stroud, who recently discovered Brown's account book, has shown me entries, dated January 1781 to May 16, 1782, recording the receipt of £1,700 by Brown on account of work at Nuneham "settled by a Bond given to Henry Holland Esq.," who had lately entered into partnership with Brown. This certainly seems to settle the question, though presumably this sum included payment for his landscape work as well as for any architectural advice.

One of the second Earl's intentions was to build a "considerable object" in the park. In 1778 he and William Mason were discussing



9.—CARFAX. DETAIL OF SCULPTURE, CIRCA 1600
The initials are those of Otho Nicholson, donor of the conduit

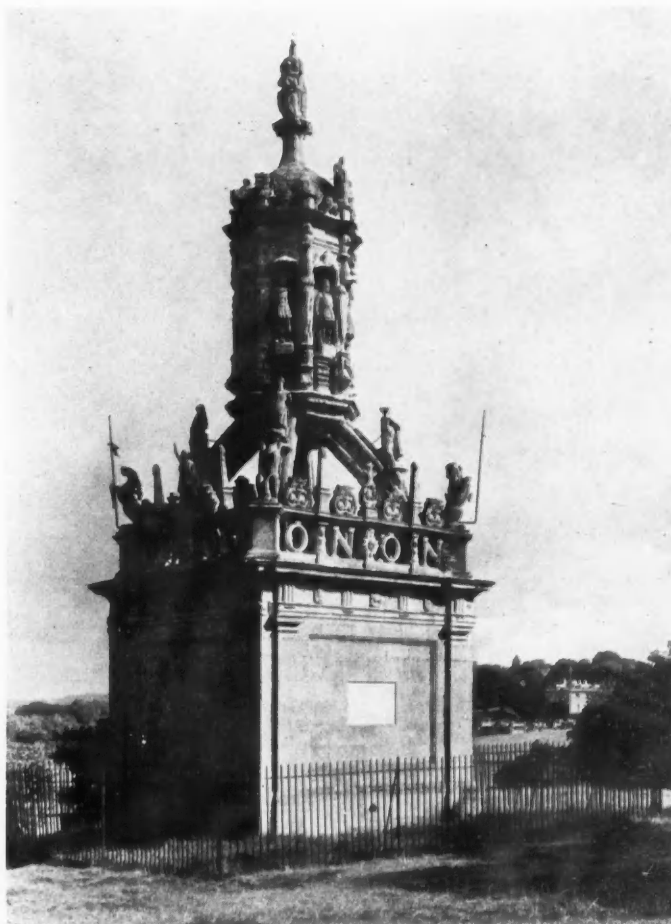
it under the name of "Courtenay Castle," so that it was evidently to be a mock ruin. Mason wrote:

When we build Courtenay Castle upon the hill, it will surely be the most eligible place for some domestic chapel, as it will be farther from the house than the present church is. And there too we can exert our Gothic phantazys with more propriety than in the neighbourhood of Stewart's Grecisms.

In 1785 he approved the employment of "Mr. Hyome for Courtenay Castle. Tedbury Church gave me the highest opinion of his Gothic taste." This must be Francis Hiorns, F.S.A., and the reference be to Tetbury, Gloucestershire, where the eighteenth-century church is, indeed, an admirable piece of work. A collection of antique furnishings for the "castle" was actually in progress, an interesting outcome of which was the acquisition of the historic Sheldon tapestry maps, now in the Victoria and Albert Museum, from Weston Hall, Warwickshire, though Mason regarded them as "hideous."

But the castle was never built. In 1786 traffic congestion caused the Oxford University authorities to decide to remove the ornamental conduit which had stood in Carfax since it was erected by a certain Otho Nicholson in about 1600, and to offer the stonework to Lord Harcourt, who immediately asked Mason for his advice on its re-erection. He remarked that he could do nothing about it without a measured drawing, and that, if it were his he would place it where Courtenay Castle was to have stood, but he implored the Earl

by the *manes* of Brown, and by everything that ever had, has, or will have the name of taste, not to place the said Carfax in his part of the garden; I am



10.—CARFAX CONDUIT, ERECTED IN OXFORD CIRCA 1600
Re-erected at Nuneham in 1787



11.—THE CHURCH
In the gardens north of the house. Architect, James Stuart, 1764

sure you will regret it when you see how incongruous an object it will there appear.

This advice seems to have been ignored; rightly, in view of the effective siting of the monument both as seen from the house and from Brown's Walk. The latter reaches its farthest extremity some little distance from Carfax, so that the visitor, seating himself beneath Whitehead's Oak, sees the monument to advantage across a pleasant valley and from the same vantage point commands the winding course of the river with the spires of Oxford in the distance. On a near by column he may read the poet laureate's lines beginning "Harcourt and friendship this memorial raise." Otho Nicholson, whose benefaction to town and gown was thus summarily removed, was an Elizabethan Examiner in Chancery who also contributed the sum of £800 towards forming a library or Christ Church. The structure is a

renaissance version of a Gothic "market cross," with a solid base.

The second Earl was succeeded in 1809 by his brother Field-Marshal Harcourt, one of the few British generals who encountered George Washington with credit. On his death in 1832 the family honours became extinct, the estates passing to his sister's son, the Right Hon. and Most Rev. Edward Venables Vernon, Archbishop of York, who took the additional name of Harcourt. The good-looking stately prelate was one of the last of the old magnificent kind who wore a wig and drove in a coach and six, while his wife, a Leveson-Gower, followed in a chaise and pair. Two of his sons succeeded him, the second, the Rev. William Harcourt, Canon of York, being the virtual founder of the British Association.

It was his son, Colonel E. W. Harcourt, who published and edited the interesting

volumes of family archives known as *The Harcourt Papers*. A younger son was Sir William Harcourt. As Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1891, it is he who was responsible for the introduction of death duties. "Since his nephew Aubrey was the sixth successor (1891) to Nuneham within a century, it is fortunate that Sir William's burden on estates was not invented sooner. He himself became liable to pay them, however, on his nephew's death unmarried in March, 1904, when he succeeded to Nuneham, though he himself died a few months later. Nuneham, indeed, had latterly become, in the late President of Magdalen's phrase, a Sleeping Beauty, whom it was left to the veteran statesman's son to awaken. How he, Louis, first Viscount Harcourt of the second creation, set about this must be deferred till next week.

CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY.

GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND—VII

THE WOMAN'S NEEDS

By ELIZABETH DENBY

The country has its own life, solitary for both men and women, fundamentally different from that of the towns. Its needs are therefore also distinct. Miss Denby opposes the artificial industrialisation of country towns and villages; let them continue to be the centres of local life that they were, and for which they will be yet more needed. And she believes that rural housing would better meet country people's needs if planned from the women's, and not the men's, point of view.

MORE than 286,000 men have left agriculture during the last 20 years, have decided that the mass-drive of factory life, the noisy confusion and smoke-ridden gloom, the ugly inefficiency of industrial towns, outweigh in advantages the quiet beauty of the countryside, the individual skill of country crafts, the friendly stability of villages and market towns. We are told, moreover, that it is often the women who instigate the change, who nag and pester their menfolk until occupation and environment alike are altered.

To city-dwellers, fresh from a country holiday or hankering for a week's quiet fishing or walking, this attitude may appear incomprehensible. Not so, however, to those townspeople who went higgledy-piggledy into the country at the outbreak of war. They know better. They went right into the labourers' homes, they saw the difficulties under which their country sisters keep house, the small money the men bring home for long working hours, the lack of health services and of opportunities for recreation and enjoyment—a lack even greater than in our great industrial towns.

True, they saw too that the children were healthier and happier than their own. But that was not enough—back they went to their slums, as soon as they could collect the money to return. This tip-and-run excursion has by many been construed entirely as a reflection on the manners, morals and morale of towns-women. To some extent of course this is true. But not entirely. To condemn a bad way of life is not necessarily to condone the alternative. The homes, the villages, the market towns themselves must bear some of the blame for this fiasco, this collapse of a great opportunity for regenerating that sick section of society which inhabits our manufacturing towns.

Townswomen refuse to stay in the country. Countrywomen try to leave it. The countryside obviously needs a drastic overhaul both in texture and in the organisation of rural life. The low wages paid to skilled agricultural workers is of course the crux of the problem. Agriculture and domestic work, two of the most skilled, most indispensable and responsible occupations, are yet also the worst paid, the most despised, the least guarded against exploitation, united as they are in rural areas!

The result cannot fail to be disastrous. Both these jobs are indispensable to the life of the nation: given the right conditions they are also among the most personally satisfying to perform. Here then is the point where reconstruction must begin; here is the source of the trouble. A decent wage for the labourer, good housing, a system providing for family allowances, the creation of a real social life in villages and small towns—that is the line on which the people themselves are thinking.

How is this to be done? Apart from family allowances, which are a national and not a specifically rural question, what do country areas need, if they are to revive and flourish? They are by their nature different, biologically different as it were, from their manufacturing industrial neighbours. The population of the main town in an agricultural area is rarely more than 25,000; the subsidiary, prosperous market towns range between 2,000 and 6,000 inhabitants. They are, of course, mainly service centres for an industry which is scattered far around in farms, fields, pastures and orchards. Residential needs are far less important than are

the shops, markets and recreational facilities generally, in support of which may be quoted a market town of 3,000 inhabitants which easily supports three inns each with stabling for 100 horses, besides a number of subsidiary taverns. Also, unlike manufacturing areas, the environment and products of agriculture are an added attraction to and not a deterrent from the region.

Neither industrialists nor officials realise perhaps what nicely balanced affairs are country towns and villages. Growing slowly through centuries, they have achieved an equilibrium of occupations based on regional needs which, even in spite of the deep depression of the agricultural industry, enabled those towns to weather slumps with a minimum of unemployment. These towns and villages have a buoyancy and stability which are not accidental, but result from functions satisfactorily adjusted to needs. Consider the normal agricultural town or village. The capital of such an area has many strings to its bow. It is generally a cathedral city, the county assizes town,



A TRADITIONAL VILLAGE STREET

Although it ignores some fashionable planning ideals, most women would be content to live in it, as affording a strong sense of community and of contact with daily life.
Lacock, Wiltshire

often also a garrison town, the administrative, market, shopping and entertainment centre for the surrounding region, a holiday magnet either for its own sake or as a pivot from which the country round can be explored, and finally a manufactory for many of the small industries natural to the particular branch of agriculture which is indigenous to the district, such as Hereford with its cider works, Worcester with its glove-making, boot-making and porcelain, and so on. Each of the small surrounding market towns has also its nucleus of trades serving, or closely linked with, the life of the community which uses it. Doctors, lawyers, workers in local government service, in transport, water, gas and electricity supply, in the distributive trades, in building with its dependent occupations ranging from brick and tile works to carpenters and joiners, garage hands and small-metal workers, printers, hotel and catering staffs, brewers, bakers, laundresses, tailors, makers of agricultural equipment—an infinite number of trades may be found in any little town, offering security of employment, interest and skilled work to those who undertake them. To propose sending irrelevant industries to these areas, founded as they already are on the great industry of agriculture, which only needs to be made secure and well paid, is foolishness. It is to commit the final destruction both of town and countryside. For the official policy of post-war reconstruction, so far as it has been disclosed, is to decentralise industry from the great industrial areas, to direct it to those agricultural areas which, in the Government view, appear most suitable for their reception. Many people in or near market towns must in fact be living at present under a very disagreeable cloud of apprehension. What will "planners" do to their neighbourhood after the war? Will it be made the home of a number of new industries, together with the houses, roads and services which this will entail? Will it perhaps be selected as the nucleus of one of the projected new towns? If so, what opportunities will be given to them to express their views for or against the project? How far will their point of view be listened to? Will plans be amended to meet the reasoned—or perhaps only the deeply sentimental—wishes of the country people themselves about the future development of their own environment?

I was talking the other day to an official of one of our most typical agricultural counties. Most of his roadmen had been agricultural labourers. They were first-rate men, steady, intelligent, adaptable, able to take initiative and responsibility, interested in everything they did. Exactly the type, one would have thought, which was indispensable on the land. Why did they leave it? Because roadwork was regular, both in hours and seasons: because there was a pension at the end of it; because they did not have to vacate their cottage if they changed their work, or when they got too old to work: because they had enough energy left at the



THE MODERN SUBSIDISED GARDEN VILLAGE AT EIGHT HOUSES TO THE ACRE

Does not provide the companionship and variety of the traditional English village

end of the day to do a bit for themselves, even to run a small holding on which they could eventually retire. None of them is a reason which should be outside the power of the agricultural industry itself to provide for its skilled workers!

Besides the lowness of the worker's wages which reduces his spending power in the local village and town shops, which keeps his human demands down below a reasonable minimum and often drives his wife against her will into casual labour, housing conditions are equally pressing, equally urgent for improvement. This phrase is not limited to the narrow one of shelter, but to all the services which every woman in Britain has a right to expect in her home—water, electricity, gas in the country town, proper lavatory accommodation, economical and labour-saving equipment designed for her particular requirements, as well as schools, clinics, and opportunities for recreation and amusement.

In 1919 the shortage of rural houses in England and Wales was unestimated. By 1939, 820,606 new homes had been built and many picturesque old cottages had been pulled down. But the new, subsidised houses had little relation to the needs of the countrywoman and her family. Siting, plan and equipment alike showed a truly urban disregard for her particular needs and problems. The Overcrowding Survey of 1936 showed that in only six out of 41 counties was overcrowding less in the council houses than in those already existing in country areas!

Further, they were not built in the pleasant English village tradition, but were strung out along the roadside at a maximum density of eight to the acre in the monotonous, vulgar suburban style which has informed our new subsidised housing developments during the past 20 years. The village street, the village community were broken up, but nothing

was put in its place. Rents, too, were higher, much higher than an agricultural labourer could afford and these new homes were often bound to go to other than the labourer and his family.

Village life, in fact, must no longer be built up round the man—that is to say with the dwelling situated on his plot or near the farm where he is employed. It must in future be based on the woman and her family, with all their immediate communal needs. The man can much more easily and happily cycle to his work, wherever it may happen to be, than can the woman and children trudge a mile or more to shops, clinic and school, getting wet, cold and tired, or crowding on to some infrequent bus. No. Both men and women would prefer to live in some close community in which was concentrated all the needs of civilised life, as essential to the countryman as to his urban brother. Not a crude repetition of the "pub and picture" formula, but an imaginative construction of communal needs—acting, music, painting, debates and other means of self-expression: dancing, roller-skating, swimming, sailing and other sports: restaurants and inns, public fêtes and shows where friends can be met and made—all expressions of the countryman's needs, but shared by the visitors who will increasingly flock to the true country side as "holidays with pay" become part of national life.

The village swimming pools in Austria, the enchanting inns and wine-gardens in France, the simple country amusements which can be found all over the Continent show what can be done at little cost to enrich and entertain country life. The amusements organised in some of our remote villages by refugees working near by, and the rapturous enthusiasm with which they have been received, show that there is plenty of native talent and keenness to draw on.

One word of warning. All these things may be done, yet only harm result. Even to-day lovely country towns and villages are being vulgarised—shabby in their old buildings, tasteless and vulgar in their new ones, dull and unimaginative in the facilities provided for communal enjoyment. Take care that the towns are not killed before the golden eggs of happiness are laid—eggs that are gold in their intellectual content, though not necessarily in their material returns.

It will be seen that I disagree with some of the proposals already made in this series, more particularly with those relating to the redistribution of mechanical industry through towns and villages which at present are primarily supported by agriculture. I do this deliberately, for, given a really intelligent handling of post-war reconstruction, I doubt whether the 5,000,000 people said to be surplus from urban areas will in fact materialise, unless as voluntary recruits to agriculture! I doubt very much whether those projected dozens of new towns will in fact need building. I doubt whether a single market town or village will have to have a single unsuitable manufactory tacked on to it.



TWO LOW-COST LIVING-ROOMS, PLANNED FOR FAMILY LIFE

(Left) A Swedish workman's home which has kept close to tradition, including its use for meals. (Right) An English workman's house, costing no more than the ordinary subsidised type; kitchen-dining-room faces the street; living-room (above) faces the garden

WORPLESDON MEMORIES

By BERNARD DARWIN

I HAVE always had a habit of writing golfing articles on a Sunday, whether because the better the day the better the deed or, more probably if less creditably, because courses are, or rather were, apt to be crowded on that day, and it was wiser to stay at home. This sets me thinking of various golfing Sundays in different places; at Woking, with the early walk in nailed shoes over the slippery granite on Waterloo Bridge; at St. Andrews, its somnolence only broken by a walk to the burn; in Wales, where I used to climb through the wood of little stunted oaks to the top of the hill, where was the lonely lake with its rhododendron island, play shots on the mountain turf and look down at the Dovey winding to the sea.

All are pleasant to remember, but this particular Sunday on which I sit writing recalls most vividly of all Worplesdon. In happier times this October Sunday would have been the one before the Worplesdon Mixed Foursomes began. We should all have been greeting one another again, discussing with no more than a spice of agreeable malice the old firms that had broken up and the "intriguing" new partnerships entered into. We should likewise have been trying to play a practice round and finding that it took about three and a half hours to complete. I think I have had at least as much solid fun out of the tournament as out of any golf wherever and whatsoever, and must indulge myself in some backward glances at it.

I have been to every Worplesdon and seen every final from 1921, when the tournament was founded, till 1938, except for one year, 1932, when I was sneezing and snuffling in bed. I played in two finals and refereed a great many: I ought to remember much more about them than I do. Perhaps they have become inextricably fused in my head because, except that sometimes it rained and sometimes it didn't, one Worplesdon has been delightfully like another. Certain visions belong to them all. First there is that of waiting behind the fourth green (the first three holes can be lazily observed from this watch-tower) and seeing the ladies plumping their full shots on to it with a regularity that strikes awe into the beholder. Then comes the hole over the pond at the tenth, with the autumn leaves being swept from the green and the row of onlookers by the edge of Colonel Harvey's garden; waiting ghoulishly for the splash that never comes. There is that other admirable waiting place at the twelfth (no sane man has ever walked the length of the eleventh) and—this is an all-pervading vision—the number of ladies that will bring their dogs to look on and the number of other people who say what a nuisance they are. There are the admirable cold lunches eaten in various hospitable houses near the course, and the concourse of coffee-and-kümmel drinkers on the club-house veranda. I forget about the rain, which only belongs to the bad old times, and see my picture in mellow autumn sunshine.

I can really think of only one change in all these years. When I first went there, there was in "my house," as I think of it, a very small young lady, who as a treat was sometimes taken out to watch "Joyce"; her already mature taste indeed utterly rejected all the other players. Now she has somehow become a fully grown-up young lady.

From all the finals I can see most clearly two small pictures. In both of them Miss Gourlay and Major Hezlet, double winners of the tournament, play leading parts. One is of their match against Miss Joy Winn and Mr. Longstaffe in 1929. That was one of the wet years, though not to my mind so wet as was 1923, when I was in the final myself and through constant drenchings ran through all my own stock of clothes and had to fall back on my host's. In this year I was the referee, and I have been a little uncomfortable in the conscience ever since, as to whether I ought to have declared the ground unfit for play. The match went on to the thirty-ninth, which had by that time become more like a lake than a green. Miss Winn and her partner bravely tried to putt their ball through the water, but they were not strong enough; I don't think anybody could have been. Their opponents more cunningly pitched and ran through the flood, and

they won. Whatever my conscience was, it cannot have been nearly so uneasy as that of an old friend, who is now, alas! no more, the referee in 1926. This time Miss Gourlay and Major Hezlet were playing Mlle. de la Chaume (now Mme. Lacoste) and Mr. Roger Wethered. They were leading as they came to the fourteenth in the second round, and it looked as if that hole would almost settle it; they lay clear and comfortable in two near the opening to the green, and Mr. Wethered had crashed into the thicket to the left of it. The ball was found in a nest of brambles, appearing almost unplayable, and here my vision really begins. The referee has apparently forgotten the rule which speaks of not improving the lie by the moving of growing objects and is obsessed by another rule about the player being allowed to see the top of his ball. He murmurs to himself in a spell-bound manner "They may get a sight of their ball," and superintends a delicate game of "spellicans" by which the brambles are moved one by one. Finally Mlle. de la Chaume has a valiant hack at the ball. By a 100 to 1 chance it crashes through the branches of an oak and ends not far from the hole. Mr. Wethered holes the putt; the hole is won instead of lost, and ultimately the match is won too, on the last green.

A COUNTRYWOMAN'S DIARY

By E. M. DELAFIELD

THE high-water mark of the week for me has been a report that I have had, at first hand, of a Women's Institute in East Kent.

Before the war its membership was 108. When the bombing began last year it may reasonably be asserted that East Kent was as well in the forefront of the battle as any other part of England.

In this particular village, one row of houses stood actually next to the aerodrome. Most of them stand no longer: the remaining ones have had to be evacuated.

Membership of the Institute was reduced to five. The Village Hall, in which meetings had always been held, was taken over by the Army and the five members then met in their secretary's kitchen.

They still owned a canning-machine, bought in the previous spring, and in spite of an offer from their County Federation to buy it from them, the undaunted five declined to sell it and said that they had bought it and intended to use it.

In 1940, in the midst of shelling and bombing, these five women canned 7cwt. of fruit, made 7cwt. of jam, and filled 100 bottles of fruit.

THIS year the membership has somehow gone up to 25. Canning, bottling and jam-making have taken place, and if the actual result, in net weight, is less than is only owing to a less satisfactory fruit harvest, and not at all to any slackening on the part of the members. At this moment of writing, the Institute is still meeting regularly in the secretary's kitchen. It has a War Savings Group. It has arranged for monthly lectures and demonstrations, just as usual.

It was, in fact, one of the demonstrators who, returning from there, told me about these indomitable Englishwomen and begged me to send this story to America. I shall certainly do so, but I thought England might as well have it too.

And the demonstrator added that, at the end of her stay, one quite old woman had said to her:

"If we're bombed again this year, we can stick it. We did last year. Myself, I like to go under a hedgerow. Somehow I feel safer there."

BLONDIE, who used sometimes to drive my car, is now in the becoming blue of the W.A.A.F. uniform. She is doing night-work in a part of England entirely new to her, and when she came to London on a 48-hour break I met her.

She was as cheerful as ever, slept for

As I look through the list of winners and runners-up there is no difficulty in seeing who has the best record. Miss Wethered won seven times and was once runner-up. Moreover in her seven victories she had six different partners. That is unique and will never be approached. Miss Gourlay comes nearest to her with three wins, two with Major Hezlet and one with Mr. Torrance. Of the men, Major Hezlet, Mr. Torrance, Mr. Tolley and Mr. Wethered have each won twice, and I think, unless I am doing someone an injustice, that completes the list of multiple winners. There have been some single victories that are worth more than their face value, and I should rate very high that of Miss Leitch with Mr. Esmond in 1925. Mr. Esmond did his bit well, but it is no injustice to him to say that the chief responsibility lay on Miss Leitch, and she bore it gallantly.

Another particularly fine win, in more recent times, was that of Miss Craddock Hartopp (now Mrs. John Morrison) and her brother in 1935. There is one man, too, who has a particularly good record that deserves a word, since names get easily lost in ever longer lists. Mr. Noel Layton won once with Miss Fowler and was three times runner-up. In two out of the three finals he lost, moreover, he had to meet Miss Wethered, and that in this tournament was always an unpromising outlook. The reading of that list has given me some sad little yearnings. Whatever betides that is surely one of the things that must happen again.

13 hours without stirring, and assured me that the life she was leading was "divine."

I think it worth noting that, like every young member of the Forces to whom I have talked on the subject, she asserted that the Y.M.C.A. was "by far the most marvellous" of all the organisations that cater for the Forces. The Y.M.C.A. seems to have discovered the secret of universal popularity.

At six o'clock one evening I saw Blondie off by a very crowded train that was not due to reach its destination until half-past eleven that night. On arrival she would still have 10 miles to cover, somehow, before reaching her station.

I remembered her announcement, made earlier in the day with great *naïveté*:

"Everyone always asks me what job I was in before I joined up. There is only one other girl who came straight from school, in all our lot."

The dashing and dauntless child is still three months short of 18.

ONE always wonders, no doubt unreasonably, why animals belonging to other people possess such charming and unusual characteristics, while one's own creatures—though very nice and lovable—remain quite ordinary.

Several years ago, however, an Airedale bitch of ours, deprived of her puppies, adopted a tiny stray kitten. It was the more odd because there was a young kitten in the house already, of whom Dinah took no particular notice. One day a member of the family came into the room where I was petting our kitten, looked at me very strangely, and remarked:

"Have you got the kitten on your lap?"

Restraining a cheap impulse to answer: "No, it's a rogue elephant," I merely assented.

"I only ask, because at this moment the kitten is out in the stable. I've just seen it."

And a kitten—even smaller, and certainly much prettier, than the original one—actually was in the stables!

It was brought in and proved too young to lap from a saucer. But it went fearlessly up to Dinah, lying before the fire, crept between her paws, and in a very few minutes she was suckling it.

Nothing could have been more touching, and it went on being touching for some time. But the kitten, unfortunately, grew up to be a cat of great beauty but no morals whatever. It would not be weaned, and poor Dinah was eventually reduced to hiding herself in the farthest attic, at the top of the house, to avoid her *protégé*, long after the stage had been reached when the cat was grown up and should have been self-supporting.

CORRESPONDENCE

DEER AT WOBURN

SIR,—Miss Pitt's articles recall some delightful days I spent at Woburn many years ago. I have always thought that Père Davide's deer are a freak produced by man. That tail is surely not a deer's, nor is the weird long face that looks like a hartebeest's. After all man has produced from a dog such freaks as bulldogs, pugs and the modern fox terrier. Some old Chinese has in the distant past been, I think, up to his tricks with deer to produce a creature with an elongated face, an antelope's tail and horns with points that all face in the wrong direction.

Miss Pitt believes that there may still be aurochs in Poland. I made a number of enquiries on this subject in the years after the last war and the evidence pointed the other way. While in Poland I heard that there were rumours of aurochs' tracks having been seen since the war, but the most reliable information seemed to be that they had all been killed off for food by the peasants during the war. My father obtained permission about 1900 to visit the forest at Bialystok, then in Lithuania under Russian rule, where the aurochs lived on a property belonging to the Tsar, and obtained some quite good photographs of them.

On the border of Czechoslovakia and Poland there was, even after the war, a herd of American Bison kept by some prince, I forget whom, and the existence of this herd led to false reports of the existence of aurochs after the war. Aurochs, however, may still exist in the far more inaccessible forests of the Kouban in the north-western Caucasus.

I hope that Miss Pitt is going to show us some photographs of what I think is the finest of all European animals and the most beautiful stag in the world, the great red stag of the eastern Carpathians, Asia Minor and the Caucasus. Nobody has ever played any pranks with them, and Woburn used to possess a magnificent herd of them.—ANTHONY BUXTON, Great Yarmouth.

A LETTER FROM A PRISONER OF WAR

SIR,—The enclosed photographs and details of personnel at Oflag IX A/H reached me recently from my husband, Captain A. Forester Fielding.

Dated September 7.

"We knew from *Camp*, a weekly paper in English, issued to us by the Germans, that the 4th Service of National Prayer was being held at home to-day, and so all our thoughts and hopes were with yours too. . . . Imagine a dining hall to hold 200 transformed for prayers. A red blanket on a deal table with a wooden Cross, two wooden candlesticks and an embroidered I.H.S. cloth, all fashioned and made by officers here. Vases of marigolds and snapdragons on a white cloth for the Altar. There is a beautifully made reading table. Through the several windows on three sides we see the pine clad hills, velvety green in the pale autumn sunshine, whilst the mediæval Schloss, our one time abode, is silhouetted against the sky. A German guard is seated at the back and much barbed wire surrounds our little community of three large buildings encompassed in a space of 90 x 50 yards. The laughter of children from the main street of this picturesque hamlet floats in through the windows, and there is the cackle of geese from the stream

which flows along one side. Barrie (Grayson) plays a voluntary and our service proceeds. The sermon, preached by Norman Maclean (once padre to the 1st R.S.) is full of the sincerest simplicity. He concluded by using 'I vow to thee my country, etc.' from the sheet you sent, and referred to that service. Blessing and closing hymn. *Appell* (roll call) followed by which, being Sunday, there was a parade. One hundred and fifty British officers, some in service and others battle dress, with various headgear including Balmorals and Glengarries, turn out looking their best. The command 'British Officers—Attention' rings out and Brigadier Somerset inspects us before we are counted by the German camp officer."

PHOTOGRAPH ABOVE

Standing L. to R.—Lt. E. Barrie Grayson (music and orchestra); Lt. M. S. Langham (play production and dramatic society); Major R. J. Wilby (indoor games); Capt. E. G. C. Beckwith (play production); Lt. L. H. Garrett (education); Major E. Davies Thomas (variety); Lt. D. B. Alton (sports).

Sitting L. to R.—Capt. J. W. Mansel (art and designing); Lt. F. B. Chancellor (treasurer and editor *Nine A.M. News*); Capt. A. Forester Fielding (chairman); Capt. P. Scott Martin, M.C. (stage management); Major G. G. Grazebrook (play production).

On Floor.—Lts. M. Ashe and J. Kirke (lighting and stage effects).

PHOTOGRAPH BELOW

Back Row L. to R.—Lt. A. E. Watts (baggage officer and senior officer, room 73); Capt. P. Turchan (news officer); Capt. A. Forester Fielding (chairman entertainments, S.O. room 14); Capt. A. G. Hewer (kitchen officer); Capt. P. Symington (canteen officer, S.O. room 91); Capt. A. Connors (laundry officer); Capt. E. Stubbs (S.O. room 15); Lt. F. G. Bibbings (S.O. room 17); Capt. S. T. Williamson (medical officer).

Second Row Standing L. to R.—Capt. R. F. Mortimer (library officer); Capt. N. A. Courage (S.O. room 89); Major J. S. Alston (clothing officer); Rev. A. D. Duff (senior chaplain, S.O. room 72); Major W. Davies (S.O. room 52, 57, 58); Major J. K. L. Roberts (paymaster); Major G. G. Grazebrook (welfare officer); Major A. H. Atkins (garden officer, S.O. room 44); Capt. P. Peel (Assistant adjutant, S.O. room 68, 69, 71, 75); Capt. S. Wright (Officer in charge Orderlies).

Seated.—Lt.-Col. G. W. Kennedy, M.C. (parcels officer); Lt.-Col. C. J. Odling, T.D. (2nd in command, S.O. room 40); Major C. W. Clout, M.B.E. (confidence officer, S.O. room 46); Brig. Hon. N. F. Somerset, D.S.O., M.C. (senior British officer); Major W. M. Ponsonby (camp adjutant); Lt.-Col.



EDUCATION AND ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE, OFLAG IX, A/H
CHAIRMAN, CAPTAIN A. FORESTER FIELDING

T. A. Ford, T.D.; Lt.-Col. T. Samuel, M.C. (senior medical officer).

On Floor.—Lt. D. Hale (postal officer); Lt. D. B. Oldham (recreation officer); Lt. J. Turnbull (S.O. room 16); Lt. J. A. Body (S.O. room 90).—CONSTANCE FORESTER FIELDING, 54, Vernon Avenue, Huddersfield.

WHICH HOME IS BEST?

SIR,—May I be permitted to correct a reference to myself in your issue of October 10? In a paragraph headed *Which Home is Best?* it is stated that I "and the modern-efficiency purists would put us all into towers of flats standing in spacious grounds."

I cannot speak for the aforesaid purists; but in my recent book, *Town and Country To-morrow*, I tried to make it clear beyond all misunderstanding, in the foreword and again in the very last sentence of the book, that I advocated this form of housing only for very large cities with vast acreages of suburbs.

I fully recognise the debt we owe to the Garden City movement and realise that the true Garden City comes nearer than anything else to the ideals of many people—though I see many grave defects in its debased form, the Garden Suburb, as who does not? Again, there is a great deal to be said for terrace housing, particularly in urban areas. In short, it would be foolish to maintain that any one form of development can suit either the tastes or the environments of all people.

What I have consistently tried to do is to claim attention for the one form of housing which has never yet been properly demonstrated in this country. Its neglect is all the more serious in that it would appear to be more appropriate than either cottages or terraces to the environment in which the bulk of our population must live, the suburb, and in which the need for rapid re-housing after the war will be most pressing.

I have no wish to lay down the law and try to force people into homes of a kind they dislike. But an irremediable error will have been committed if they are induced to put up with what may be in certain circumstances only second best—through sheer lack of opportunity to judge the merits of the best. Until this opportunity has been provided, either by sample housing schemes as suggested by Mr. Clough Williams-Ellis or in some other way, I suggest that it can only be misleading to attach importance to the results of popular polls or questionnaires, since the replies will be based on incomplete evidence.—GEOFFREY BOUMPHREY, Almsford Bank, Harrogate, Yorkshire.

THE ROBIN'S RED FACE

SIR,—I am very much puzzled by the appearance of what I think is a robin, but not only has it got a red breast but a red face as well. I, until coming to this part of the world, have never seen it before. There are two. One just tweets, but the other sings most beautifully; there must be others at a distance because they sing to each other. Can I be sure these are robins, or are they another sort of bird?—ANILLA LUSH, Gnaton Cottage, Gnaton Hall, Yealmpton, Devon.

[The birds seen by our correspondent were apparently normal robins, in which the orange red extends over the forehead including the eyes. It is a curious fact that the red forehead is not very noticeable, and many persons do not realise that the orange red extends beyond the breast.—Ed.]



CAMP STAFF, OFLAG IX A/H, AUGUST, 1941
BRIGADIER THE HON. N. F. SOMERSET, D.S.O., M.C., SENIOR BRITISH OFFICER (Centre)



YOUNG CATTLE IN THE DYNEVOR PARK HERD

DYNEVOR CATTLE

SIR,—I enclose a snapshot of some calves of the Dynevor Castle herd of Park or wild cattle, with their white coats and black points. Fenton, the early nineteenth-century traveller, says that he saw here a curious breed of White cattle "but the bull is black." I do not think this is now the case, if it ever was. These, with the Chillingham and Charnwood herds, seem to be the last remnant of the most ancient breed of cattle now surviving in our country: it is to be hoped that they will be able to survive the present difficulties. These cattle seem rather less wild than the Chillingham herd, for although they roam at large in the park, I have seen a cow obviously of this breed in a mixed herd in Pembrokeshire.—CANTELUPE.

[We are glad to be able to assure our correspondent that Park cattle are not so nearly extinct as she fears. The Park Cattle Society has a membership of 21. Its Herd Book lists three "wild herds," those of Cadzow, Chillingham and Vaynol, and some 16 herds kept under domestic conditions. We are pleased to show this charming snapshot of young cattle in Lord Dynevor's Park herd, the more so that we shall shortly be publishing pictures of the Duke of Bedford's Chartley "Wild White" cattle.—ED.]

A HAMPSHIRE AVENUE

SIR,—General Sir George Jeffries recently drew attention to the proposed destruction of a section of a famous avenue of beeches in Hampshire some two miles long. It was planted to commemorate the Jubilee of George III. It is a cherished ornament of the district and, though not very widely known, was a favourite resort of motorists in pre-war days. Strong representations have been made by the Council for the Preservation of Rural

England, drawing attention to the æsthetic aspect of the proposal. But it is understood that the authorities insist that any modification of their plans is impossible. The photograph does not by any means do justice to the avenue's beauty, but at least serves as an indication, and some memorial, of its quality.

It seems likely that only the middle section will be felled, but since that will destroy the chief attribute of an avenue, that is continuity, this is little consolation. The least reparation that the Government can make is to pay full compensation to the owner, on condition that he replants the felled section after the war.—CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY, *Froyle Cottage, Alton.*

A CURE FOR A GUN-SHY SPANIEL

SIR.—I wonder if any of your readers can help me to cure a gun-shy dog.

I have a field spaniel bitch, aged 5. An excellent worker who will face any cover—until the first shot. This takes all the spirit out of her, and all that she will then do is to trail along miserably at heel. After 20 minutes or so she will again start to work well, until there is firing.

I have tried everything that I can think of, without avail, and I shall be very grateful if some of your readers, who have perhaps had similar experiences, can suggest a cure.—GEOFFREY H. HARRIS, *Hawthornden, Sedgley, Staffordshire.*

[Mr. A. Croxton Smith, to whom we have submitted our correspondent's question, writes: "Gun-shyness is an infirmity that seems to be almost incurable. The only remedy that has any effect is to fire a blank cartridge from gun or pistol as a signal for feeding time, thus getting the dog to associate the report with something pleasant. Some gun-dog men train their puppies in this way."—ED.]

BUTTERFLIES OF 1941

SIR,—I found a small but perfect specimen of *Colias hyale* (Pale Cloud-ed Yellow) on a stubble-field, adjoining some clover fogg, at Constable Burton, Leyburn, while out shooting on October 4. This seems to be sufficiently unusual to be worthy of record, though I see from South's *Butterflies* that it was taken in Yorkshire and Lancashire in 1868.—J. H. BEILBY, *Bedale, Yorkshire.*

SIR,—On September 13 I saw several Pale Cloud-ed Yellows, and on September 27 one, by Bittell Reservoir; and finally, on October 11, one Comma Butterfly of the aberrant form, near Barnt Green, Worcestershire.—E. ST. GEORGE BETTS, 85, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, 12.

[The Comma Butterfly has much increased and spread during recent years and is now frequent in the West Midlands. The Pale Cloud-ed Yellow records are interesting and confirm the belief that this season will rank as "a Cloud-ed Yellow year."—ED.]

SIR.—It can safely be said that the Comma Butterfly (*Grapta C. Album*) has now become distributed in quantities all over the south and west

of England and this although some forty years ago it was practically extinct, or at any rate very rare.

Some fifteen years ago a pair visited my garden and remained undisturbed and each subsequent year saw them increase so that now on a sunny day in September we have counted 20 in one border of Michaelmas Daisies.

On September 22—a hot, sunny day—I was out with a party partridge shooting about four miles from here and entered a small field which was a mass of thistles in flower (terrible farming!) and I was able to point out to the rest of the party the number of Commas on the thistles. There were also a good number of Tortoiseshells (small) and Red Admirals and a few Pale Cloud-ed Yellows, but the number of Commas far exceeded the rest put together, and there must have been many dozens of them—two and three on a plant.—PHILIP H. JACKSON, *Pittis Moor, Fordingbridge, Hampshire.*

BRITAIN'S LAST CRESSSET BEACON

SIR,—Before the time of wireless and telephones it was necessary to erect beacon lanterns on hills and tall buildings, so that, in the event of invasion, warning could be quickly flashed by means of fire throughout the country.

One of these interesting relics, the last surviving cresset beacon in the land, may be seen over the corner tower of Monken Hadley Church, Hertfordshire. It has been likened to a worn-out chestnut roaster.

Although tradition states that the beacon was lighted in '45, when troops were encamped on



THE "CHESTNUT ROASTER" BEACON ON MONKEN HADLEY CHURCH, HERTFORDSHIRE

nearby Hadley Common, to give Bonnie Prince Charlie a warm reception if he got so far south, there is no proof that it has been lighted for purposes of national emergency since the sighting of the Armada.

On a stormy night in 1777 the turret, beacon and stairway were all blown down. In the belfry is a large iron tray which was placed beneath the blazing cresset on nights of "active service" to prevent a more wholesale "celebration" from occurring.—P. H. LOVELL, *Pinner, Middlesex.*

HOOKING A MOORHEN

SIR,—I think the following may be of interest to your readers.

A few days ago I was fishing for sea trout in the Meon, and seeing a "bow wave" under some rushes, I cast my fly. My line immediately went taut and I reeled in. I thought I was into about a two-pounder; for a moment I thought it was foul-hooked, but proceeded to play it. As it swam steadily down and then up stream, and I even saw it for a second, I decided it was all right. I got my landing-net ready; it then plunged exactly like a sea trout will do, and it was not until it came to the surface that I found to my disappointment that I had caught a moorhen by the leg! I landed it, removed the hook, and it immediately dived into the river and disappeared. I have heard of fishermen catching swallows and bats, but never before have I known anyone catch a moorhen.—BEATRICE BRADLEY, *White Canons, Catfild, Fareham.*

CONGREGATIONS AND TIDINGS

SIR,—With reference to the interesting letter from Mr. J. H. Owen on the subject of large gatherings of magpies, the term "congregation" should strictly be applied only to plovers.

I have never heard it used to describe a flock of magpies, and should be glad to know of any authority for such use.

The correct company term for magpies is *tidings*, taken from the Book of St. Albans and the Egerton MS. The old word is *Titengis* (with many



A DOOMED HAMPSHIRE AVENUE

variations of spelling) meaning "news" (tythyng) and refers to the superstition as to good or bad luck according to the number of "pyes" seen.

Perhaps I may be allowed to mention that a complete list of such terms, with their origin, can be obtained from a book of mine called *The Language of Sport* (Country Life, 7s. 6d.).—MAJOR C. G. HARE, *Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, S.W.1.*

MILESTONE TO VALOUR

SIR,—I enclose a photograph of a milestone which may still be seen (but with the distances suitably obliterated) in the grounds of Christ Church, Shooters Hill, London, which recalls one of the most terrible phases of the 1914-18 war.—METRO, *Middlesex.*



THE MEMORIAL MILESTONE AT SHOOTERS HILL

A TALL MILESTONE!

SIR,—I was very much interested in Mr. Jefferson's article on Milestones in your issue of September 26, particularly as the "Crescent" stone illustrated is quite near my house.

Most remarkable of this series, bearing the Trinity Hall Crescent, however, is the first, and I



A MILESTONE 14ft. HIGH

thought your readers might care to see a photograph. Not only is this the first milestone to be erected in England since Roman days, but it is no less than 14ft. in height!

Once it towered high above the brook which the road forded at this point, but now the greater part of the stone is buried by a bridge—only the 4ft. shown in the photograph being visible from the road.—K. D. KEFFORD, *Trumpington, Cambridge.*

THE BRETBY CEDAR

SIR,—While not wishing to doubt the authority of Mr. H. J. Wain concerning the legend of the Bretby Cedar (COUNTRY LIFE, September 26), I should like to mention in justice to myself (COUNTRY LIFE September 12) that the legend has gained much credence. I believe an article appeared in the local paper giving the full story.

I understand that the famous Enfield Cedar is

now dead, and the reputation of being the oldest Cedar of Lebanon now stands with the one at Bretby.—F. RODGERS, *Derby.*

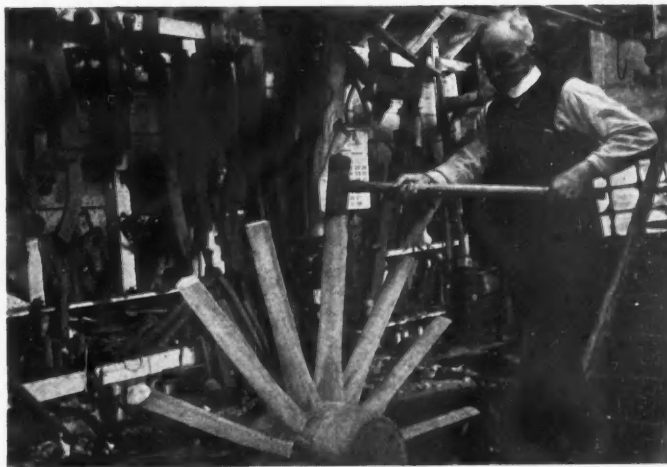
COUNTRY INDUSTRIES

SIR,—In a little village in Kent, where all is quiet but for the occasional roar of our patrolling Spitfires, I came upon one of the old country industries in full swing—that of wheel-making.

Upon entering a small workshop situated at the bottom of a yard, I found a fine old gentleman busily making a cart-wheel with tools his great-grandfather used. I was shown how a wheel is made from the turning of the hub to fixing the iron tyre. I saw some fine old ledgers dating as far back as 1820, when one could obtain an all-wood, hand-made wheelbarrow for 16s. To-day barrows cost much more.

Oak and elm are two of the chief kinds of wood used. Ash is sometimes employed, but all kinds of wood used must be well seasoned—one reason most wheelwrights prefer to fell their own trees.

War has brought wheel-making more into light. Owing to the shortage of petrol, farmers are using carts instead of lorries, and so reviving one of the finest old country industries.—A. COLLET.



MAKING A CART-WHEEL

MINSTER LOVELL HALL

SIR,—I enclose a recent photograph of the ruins of the great hall at Minster Lovell, which was being preserved by the Office of Works just before war broke out. This place enshrines one of the strangest mysteries in our history. The Hall was built between 1425-50 by William Lord Lovell, around a quadrangle. There remains much of the Great Hall, of unusual height, and on the south side a tower overlooking the Windrush. Of the rest, most has disappeared. The house was practically abandoned after 1728, when its then owner, the Earl of Leicester, whose ancestor Lord Chief Justice Coke had bought it in 1602, began to build his great house at Holkham.

One curious local legend says that if the swamp on the western side is drained there will appear a pavement of coloured tiles or "glass." Probably this swamp was a fishpond, but since there is usually some foundation for such stories, there might have been a Roman pavement here, of which some recollection still lingers. Another story predicted the finding of hidden treasure at the same place, but this failed to materialise when sought by a dowser some time ago.

But the real mystery of the house cannot be solved by excavation. In 1708 workmen found in an underground vault a skeleton seated at a table, upon which were books and papers. As soon as fresh air was admitted all fell to dust. But it was thought that this grim discovery solved the problem which had been a puzzle for two hundred years, that of the disappearance of Francis Lord Lovell, after the fighting in Lambert Simnel's revolt. (He was an ardent Yorkist, and fought on the losing side at Bosworth.) Some said that he was last seen



WORKING WITH HIS GRANDFATHER'S TOOLS

swimming his horse across the Trent: others concluded that he had been killed in the rebellion. But his body was never found, or at least there was no record of his burial. The village tradition, firmly held, was that he had escaped to Minster Lovell and lived in hiding there; that he had died of starvation after the sudden death of the only man who knew of his hiding-place and kept him supplied with food. The discovery seems to confirm this theory.—M. W., *Hereford.*



THE RUINS OF MINSTER LOVELL

FARMING NOTES

WHEAT PLANTING THIS AUTUMN

MUCH emphasis has been laid on the importance of getting more wheat than ever planted this autumn. Fortunately the weather has been open and, although the harvest was late, it has been possible to keep the tractors going, and in most parts of the country farmers should have been able to get a full acreage of wheat planted. Wheat, they say, likes a stale furrow, and most of us would have liked to plant more land ploughed early in the autumn and left to lie for a little, but there has been so much to do getting the harvest finished up that ploughing for wheat went on well into October. Still, with disc harrows and modern implements a reasonably good and firm seed-bed for wheat was secured and a large acreage has been packed away safely. Most farmers with a big arable acreage—and we all have now rather more than we bargained for—like to get as much as possible planted in the autumn.

IF farmers listened entirely to the Minister of Food they might think that there was no need for much wheat to be grown in this country. Lord Woolton has repeatedly said that we have bigger stocks of wheat and sugar in this country than when the war started, and he does not always remember to add that this is largely due to increased home production. The nation ought to be able to keep a large reserve of wheat, and this can only be ensured if farmers in this country plant a full acreage for 1942.

THERE is, of course, the drawback to wheat growing that the man who has devoted a larger acreage to wheat does not automatically qualify for feeding-stuff coupons. He is not allowed to feed millable wheat to his stock. He can keep the tailings, which are supposed not to amount to more than 5 per cent. of the total threshing. As I pointed out last week, it is not perhaps realised by all farmers who have grown a big acreage of wheat this year that they can apply to the War Agricultural Committees for coupons to provide for the needs of fattening cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry. Each of the County Committees has what is called a "wheat growers' reserve," and from this they can allocate coupons to those who have grown wheat, and even such crops as flax, at the expense of oats which they could have used for feeding to livestock.

THIS wheat growers' reserve is something separate from the oat exchange scheme. Many farmers seem to be rather hazy about this, too. The main point is that a farmer who has surplus oats or dredge corn can get feeding-stuff coupons which will allow him to buy oil cake and other feeding-stuffs if he sells or even undertakes to sell his surplus oats or dredge corn. There is a time limit on this scheme and those who have arable sheep and other stock that need oil-cake, and can spare some oats, should get in touch straight away with an approved merchant and make a definite offer to sell their surplus corn. There is no need for the oats to be delivered at once. They need not be delivered until as late as March. The important matter is to give the undertaking, and on this coupons will be issued.

A KEEN demand seems to be growing up for pedigree pigs, which is all to the good. Many farmers were rather precipitate in killing off all their breeding sows last spring when there was so much talk about cutting down feeding-stuff rations and reducing the numbers of pigs as well as poultry to only one-sixth of the pre-war total. In practice to-day many farmers find that they have large quantities of potatoes and the like which could usefully be fed to pigs and other livestock and make farm-yard manure which their land wants.

MORE than one of my friends is now starting pig breeding again. Their intention is to buy three or four well-bred young sows and gradually build up a herd of 20 or 30 breeding sows, which is an economical unit for one man to manage. Their idea is not to fatten a large number of pigs but to sell

the litters as stores. With the rapid growth of the pig-club movement there is certain to be a keen demand for store pigs for some time to come. The general farm is undoubtedly the right place to breed pigs and in war-time it is economical for the young pigs to go closer to the kitchen door for the fattening period. The householder probably gets better results from his pigs than he does from his hens. The pig can deal with potato peelings, the outsides of cabbage leaves, and odd scraps, better than the hen, which needs a fair proportion of finely ground meal if she is to lay the eggs expected of her. The rapid expansion of domestic poultry keeping is a doubtful boon. The scraps which come from the kitchen and possibly also the neighbours' kitchens do not really go far to make a sustaining meal for the laying hen.

THE ESTATE MARKET

STEREOTYPING VALUES OF PROPERTY

A STRAW shows how the wind blows, it is said, though happily we have more reliable means of ascertaining that often important fact. Perhaps it is safe to regard the discussion in the House of Commons a few days ago as no more than a straw-like indication of wishful thinking. The particular matter to which we refer arose in the course of a resumed short discussion on alleged speculative dealings in land. The larger question, or at any rate the original question, with its curious reflections on the honourable profession of land agency and auctioneering, was sufficiently dealt with a week ago in these notes.

The matter of interest now remaining for reference was the motion by a Liberal National Member that to prevent speculation in land, during and for five years after the war, no sale of agricultural land should be made at a higher cost per acre than that ruling on March 31, 1939, in the district where the land was situated, except for the addition of a fair recoupment of the cost of improvements made in the interval between March, 1939, and the date of the sale. The decision as to the value prevailing at the specified dates should be made by the County Agricultural Committee or some other authority, and the vendor would have to certify the outlay on chargeable improvements. Of the few remarks that followed this proposal only those of Mr. R. S. Hudson, Minister of Agriculture, need be quoted. He said that the Government could give no pledge of speedy legislation on the subject, but that speculation in land was abhorrent to him, and that in his opinion much of the bad cultivation that was now giving trouble arose from the land speculation of the years just after the last war.

The fixation of value, where an average could be locally struck, would make an end of negotiation and a free market, nobody would offer more than the ascertainable maximum, and the settlement of a figure for improvements alleged to have been made after March 31, 1939, would lead to disputes that might involve expensive arbitrations. The proposal ignores the fact that, even during the period of the present war, values of land have not stood still—and the indubitable fact that, come what may, the end of the war draws nearer day by day, and with it dawns the hope of carrying out various schemes of development and so forth, which may help an owner to recover some of the losses sustained in the lean years of war-time inactivity.

LAND ALONG THE HAMBLE RIVER

A LARGE area of land on both sides of the Hamble River near Southampton, being the residue of the Warsash House estate and part of the Crowsport estate, has been dealt with by Messrs. Fox and Sons' Bournemouth and Southampton offices. The property includes five modern detached houses, three bungalows, many building sites, and, among the lots at Hamble, the Yacht Club and hard.

It is the intention of the purchaser to proceed with the development of the estates after the war, and Messrs. Fox and Sons have been retained as managing agents.

Lord Desborough has let Marden Hill, Hertfordshire, for collegiate purposes. His agent in the matter was Mr. Cyril Jones, whose Maidenhead office has just sold Waterside, Bourne End, for £6,000, to a client of Messrs. Hampton and Sons; a Maidenhead house called Kimbolton, with the contents, to a purchaser introduced by Messrs. William Whiteley; a riverside property, known as River Court, Water Oakley, for £6,000; The Little Farm, Maidenhead Thicket, for £3,500, with three acres; Pound Cottage, Sonning, for £3,850; and many other riverside and rural freeholds, as well as business premises in Maidenhead.

"Balancer meal" can be got, but the quantity allowed is small and too often the householder makes up the hens' rations by feeding stale bread which might otherwise have been turned to some use in the kitchen or, indeed, never be left to become stale.

THE brewers' grains in the wet form are to remain outside the feeding-stuffs rationing scheme for the whole of the winter. Those who farm close to a brewery find this food suits their milking cows extremely well. Now that the brewers are busy again, the quantities of wet brewers' grains available must be considerable, and as feeding-stuff supplies generally are fairly satisfactory for the moment, this concession has been possible. The farmer who wants wet grains has to register with a brewer or a dealer holding a licence to sell wet grains. Dried brewers' or distillers' grains will continue to be rationed feeding-stuffs, obtainable only on surrender of coupons. CINCINNATUS.

The executor of the Hon. Mrs. Katharine E. Coleridge has instructed Messrs. John D. Wood and Co. to dispose of Darby Green House, Blackwater, near Camberley. The late Mr. John Coleridge designed the house for his own use. The freehold is of nearly nine acres.

WEST PARK, HAMPSHIRE, SOLD

THE mansion and 5,580 acres of West Park, near Fordingbridge, will not come under the hammer of Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley and Messrs. R. C. Knight and Sons this month, as the firms have sold the entire estate to the Pall Mall Trust, Limited, for whom Messrs. Hewitt and Lee acted as agents. There are 17 farms and most of the village of Damerham, in the valley of the Allen, a tributary of the Avon.

Mr. G. W. L. Fernandes has requested Mr. Frank D. James, the manager of Messrs. Harrods Estate Offices, to sell Haddon Lodge, Stourton Caundle, near Stalbridge. The delightful comparatively small house has been perfectly maintained during the vendor's long occupation of it. The property extends to 56 acres.

Byellets, a mansion and nearly 350 acres, at Pembridge, near Leominster, has been purchased by a client of Messrs. Marten and Carnaby. The former owner was General Bowle-Evans. The Arrow, winding through the estate, yields many a fine trout.

Important recent transactions by Messrs. Lofts and Warner include the sale of the Baylham portion of the Shrubland Park estate near Ipswich, on behalf of their client, Lord de Saumarez. The estate comprises 2,600 acres, which includes 11 farms, several with old moated farmhouses, Baylham Mill and fish ponds, numerous cottages and small holdings. As the property is bounded by the main Norwich-Ipswich road for a considerable distance it may be said to have potential building value. The greater portion of the estate, including Shrubland Park mansion, is still retained by Lord de Saumarez. Messrs. J. G. W. Barker acted for the purchaser.

LARGE SUMS FOR FARMS

LUFTON MANOR FARM, two miles from Yeovil, has been sold by auction by Messrs. Jackson Stops and Staff and Messrs. W. Palmer and Co., and R. C. Snell, Limited, for £10,000. There is a superior stone house on the 213 acres. The tithe and other outgoings approach £100 a year, out of a rental of just over £360 a year.

Aston Hall Farm, 220 acres of freehold at Worleston, with an extra area of 26 acres on lease, has realised £11,500, at a Crewe auction.

Anderson Farm, just over 500 acres, near Bere Regis, Dorset, noted for its pedigree shorthorns, has been sold by Messrs. John D. Wood and Co.

Howfold Fruit Farm, Wisborough Green, 143 acres, carrying splendid orchards of Cox's orange pippins, has been sold at Horsham, by Messrs. Newland, Tompkins and Taylor and Messrs. H. and R. L. Cobb, for £14,500, by order of executors and others.

Somerset sales, at Burnham-on-Sea, include Hurn Farm, 40 acres, for £4,250, and 119 acres, in Berrow, for £10,179.

For a Haslemere freehold, in High Street, let at £75 a year, Messrs. Cubitt and West have accepted a bid of £1,000. Pinfield House and five acres, at Barnet Green, for £3,600, is one of many freeholds lately disposed of under the hammer in Birmingham.

Messrs. J. and H. Drew, of 38, West Southernhay, Exeter, in conjunction with Messrs. A. Pearce Jenkin and Partners of Redruth, Cornwall, announce the sale by private treaty of the historic Carclew estate near Falmouth, which was to have been offered for sale by auction on November 12.

ARBITER.



Cottage Interior, by de Pape, (1620-1666).

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NEW BOOKS

A TORY AT OXFORD

Reviews by HOWARD SPRING

SIR CHARLES OMAN'S new book *Memories of Victorian Oxford* (Methuen, 15s.) gives more than the title promises. Oxford is not the whole matter. Sir Charles was born in India in 1860, and was brought while still a baby to London, where his father took a house in Regent's Park, went into a shipping business in the City, encountered a bad financial reverse, and shifted with his family to the cheaper amenities of Cheltenham.

Thus, at the very outset, the author is able to impart both drama and interest to his book. The Omans, living in London, had plenty of well-to-do relatives, and we are shown something of what life was like in those days and in that place among prosperous and intelligent people. The father is an interesting figure of these early pages: a man of literary ambition and some small literary achievement, but disappointed and unfulfilled.

The young Charles was only 12 when he went from Cheltenham to Winchester, head of all the scholarship boys of his year. He was just in time to strike a bad patch in the school. The food was abominable, and he encountered "a perfect nightmare of thoughtless cruelty." Whether it was so thoughtless as all that the reader must judge. Sir Charles himself at last drops this exculpatory word and calls it sadism.

AT WINCHESTER

The whole thing was so fundamentally idiotic. There was compiled by the boys themselves a list of nicknames. Anything might have a nickname: a pool, a field, a hedge, a person, a room. The list of nicknames itself had a nickname: notions. Every new boy was given a brief time in which to make himself acquainted with notions; then he was examined by his fag-master.

This is how it worked out with the young Oman. "He asked me one simple question which I could solve, then another about the proper designation of a place which I could never have had occasion to visit, and then a third as to what was the nickname of the college organist whom I had never seen or heard of. . . . When I acknowledged my ignorance he declared me 'coppelled' or 'ploughed,' made me bend over, and administered six cuts of the ground ash. They hurt: he was nineteen, I twelve."

This iniquity was dragged into the light when a rebel against the whole stupid system was given 30 cuts across the shoulders, five ground ashes being broken in the process. This boy wrote to his father, and the father had the sense and courage to start what amounted virtually to a national agitation. The remainder of Charles Oman's schooldays gained in tranquillity therefrom, but the reluctance of the school authorities to take a drastic step, even in the face of manifest wickedness, was shown by their refusal to expel the brute who administered the 30 stripes.

GAMES AND LEADERSHIP

In the lower forms at Winchester Oman found "intellectual training non-existent in my day." There were plenty of games, but he thinks they were over-valued; and he thinks that skill in them has nothing to do with "that mysterious quality 'leadership' so prized by schoolmasters." This, I think, is undoubtedly true; and so much nonsense is talked about games

and leadership that it would be interesting if someone compiled a list showing (a) just what games had been excelled in by, say, Julius Caesar, Nelson, Wellington, Cromwell, Columbus and Adolf Hitler; and (b) in what departments of life "leadership" had been exercised by great players of football, cricket, tennis and golf.

OXFORD IN THE '70s

Sir Charles went up to New College, Oxford, in 1878—a time when, at the University, "on Sunday no self-respecting man would have dreamed of appearing in anything but a black coat and tall hat. One might see seventy 'toppers' in a row on the pegs of the Union." The young undergraduate took with him a conservative and traditional outlook which the years have fortified. Even Mr. Gladstone was to him a suspect and Left-wing personality, so that when the Grand Old Man visited the University, and Oman, then a Fellow of All Souls, was asked to look after his comfort, he seems to have been somewhat naively surprised that this statesman's boots did not conceal cloven hoofs and that there was no tail in the seat of his pants. He gives the old man quite a diploma. "There was no hypocrisy in his career. I parted from him with a most unexpected feeling of respect."

Charles Oman's respect was not easily won by any person not of his own way of thinking. He gaily topples over some who have been regarded by the thoughtless as giants. "It would seem ungracious to insinuate that we regarded Dr. Jowett as less of a scholar than he fancied himself to be, a ruthless seeker after notoriety for himself and his college, a cultivator of the great, and a deliberate poseur. . . . As to Walter Pater, whom some literary folk in London seemed to take quite seriously, he was of little account in Oxford, being regarded as a poseur, not at all as a leader of thought."

WHIG DOGS AND TORY DOGS

Sir Charles perhaps suffers a little from an inability to see other views than his own. He tells us, for example, "In politics, I must confess that I have a certain Conservative bias, which impels me to see that the people of whom I disapprove do not get off with impunity. I feel a little like Dr. Johnson, who observed, as to his parliamentary reporting, that he took care that 'the Whig dogs got the worst of it.'"

That is all very well, but why, then, object if other people do the same? Sir Charles speaks of "protests which I had to make against the Whig historians of the nineteenth century who suppressed systematically evidence which told against them." After all, they were only seeing "that the Tory dogs got the worst of it."

Change was coming over Oxford when Charles Oman was matriculated into the University, and change has accelerated throughout his long career there. The chief value of the book is in its record of those changes, few of which have commended themselves to Sir Charles. He dislikes many features of Oxford life to-day: undergraduate dramatic societies—"a method of wasting time that should be devoted to study more effective than any form of athletics"—"the plethora of Honours Schools and new degrees, the enterprising and

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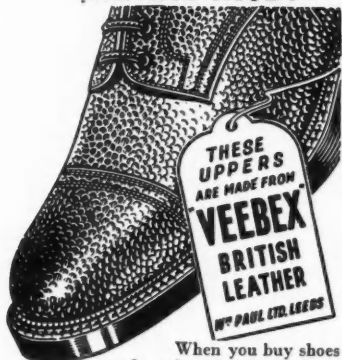
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advertising finance, the enormous
proportion of women students."

I suppose a brake is necessary to
every vehicle; and this book might
have been given the sub-title *Fifty
Years of Jaunting in an Oxford Brake*.

Those who remember *The Stuart
Papers at Windsor*, by Alistair and
Henrietta Tayler, which was published
in 1939, will welcome a continuation
of that work: *Jacobite Epilogue*, by
Henrietta Tayler (Nelson, 15s.). The
author's method is to give first a
brief biographical account of some
prominent Jacobite, or Jacobite family,
who followed the Stuarts into exile,
and then, drawing on that extra-
ordinary reservoir of Jacobite informa-
tion, the Stuart papers at Windsor,
to give some of the more interesting
letters from the person concerned.

Anyone who is sufficiently inter-
ested in this old, long-drawn-out
tragedy of loyalty and frustration
will find the work extraordinarily
interesting, with its direct and first-
hand spotlight on these lives as they
were lived. It is on the whole a pathetic
and moving record, for few of these
people, their home estates confiscated,
had more than a pittance to live on.
They write to their relatives in Scot-
land begging for food, and even second-
hand clothing, to be sent to them.

TOBACCO FOR THE CHEST

They ask, indeed, for the strang-
est things. In the Introduction we
are told of Lord Dunbar writing to
fellow-Scots in Rome for "black
pigtail tobacco" which his sister, Lady
Inverness, "chews every morning and
finds great benefit from." I wonder
whether this lady suffered from chest
trouble? Mr. Pepys has put it on
record that tobacco was chewed by
consumptives. "Mr. Chetwind by
chewing of tobacco is become very
fat and fallow, whereas he was
consumptive."

Certainly it would not be sur-
prising to know that some of these

people suffered physically because
of their privations. Not for nothing
could one embrace a cause such as
that of the Stuarts and follow it to
the bitter end. How bitter it could
be, yet shot with what lights of
devotion, Miss Tayler admirably shows.

A very good account of the day-
to-day life of a doctor is contained
in Dr. E. A. Barton's biography,
A Doctor Remembers (Seeley Service,
12s. 6d.). The daughter of "Kiss me,
Hardy" taught young Barton to
read, a queen taught him to dance,
and he remembers going to a ball at
Hampton in a sedan chair. His work
as a doctor was all done in Kensington,
and he counted Sir Luke Fildes and
Lord Leighton among his patients.
"I have been asked to anaesthetise
a pigeon, to set the broken leg of a
canary, to test wallpapers for arsenic,
and do many odd jobs of the kind."

This book is an account of the
doing of those jobs and of the normal
jobs of a doctor's life. It reveals a
hard-working man, not given to fads
and fancies, following robustly in the
traditions of a great profession. He
is all for a good mixed diet and less
nonsense about "vitamins." He
wonders whether, administered under
a rigid regime, "the gentle fluid of
Father Thames" might not be as
efficacious as the waters of many a
vaunted spa; he has never, outside
fiction, come across "rings" or
"trusts" (consultants out to feather
their nests at the public expense).

Under proper safeguards, he is
for euthanasia "when a man is inevit-
ably doomed, beyond a doubt, to a
death associated with extreme and
lingering suffering," but reminds us
that in nearly 50 years' experience
he has seen no more than about half a
dozen cases where the conditions
would apply.

This is altogether a most read-
able book because of its author's
simplicity, modesty and knack of
living at the normal mean.

A VOICE FROM CHINA

By Lady Hosie

ONE of the chief glories of a
democracy is the trust it accords
woman, and the welcome it gives to
her services. The Nazis have sup-
pressed freedom for their women; the
Fascists and the Japanese Imperialists
never encouraged women to think at
any time. It is noteworthy that Soviet
Russia has granted an extraordinary
degree of equality to women. In
England we have our beloved Queen
Elizabeth, in America Mrs. Roosevelt
speaks and works brilliantly for the
community; but China is no whit
behind and Mme. Chiang Kai-Shek
has made a name for Chinese women
which rings through the world. She
is a full member of her husband's
administration. She writes articles
and has produced several books, in
perfect English. Perhaps the work
she, a childless woman, loves best is
visiting the orphanages, where live
just a few of the countless children
whose parents lie under the sod
through Japanese action. I had a
letter from her not so long ago in
which she deplored the high price to
which rice was being driven in Chung-
king, the temporary capital of Free
China, into which has come a flood of
evacuees beyond our dreaming in
numbers. She wrote how much she
hoped Britain would never again close
the Burma Road, now their only
outlet to trade. But, she ended,
despite all, China was better off now
at the end of these years of war,
as regards the economic, the military
and the moral situation, than Japan,
who seemed the conqueror.

Now comes *China Shall Rise
Again* (Hurst and Blackett, 12s. 6d.)
to confirm all this. It is primarily
a work of reference. The first chap-
ters are by "Madame," as she is
admirably called in China. These

give a clear picture of the mentality
and the progress in the Free Pro-
vinces. There is hope and work; the
atmosphere is very different from that
of stricken Vichy. She speaks of
patriotic ideals, of the education of
the masses, of women and the family.
But she also delivers herself of sharp
realistic words concerning China's
weaknesses—"face" and "squeeze,"
cliques, evasion of responsibilities,
etc. Then follow valuable chapters,
with statistics, written by various
Ministers of State, on finance, bank-
ing, foreign relations, the construc-
tion of communications, education,
health, the Army's medical services
and the Red Cross. It is an amazing
story of human persistence and
achievement in the teeth of constantly
impending disaster. An outstanding
chapter is by Mr. Rewi Alley, a New
Zealander who left a good post in
Shanghai in order to found the Co-
operative Movement in China's North-
west. Certain small manufacturers
from the coast, 2,000 miles away, had
managed to haul thither some of their
machinery; and he has been teaching
them to work with others. Farmers,
too, pool capital and machinery, as
do now hundreds of other small
artisan owners. Chinese Communism
is being transmuted into Co-operation.

Madame Chiang has given as the
leit-motif of the book the word
"Resurgam"; for she read that
Christopher Wren chose the old stone,
on which it was engraved, to be the
centre and guide for his workmen when
he started to re-build St. Paul's, after
its destruction. And we, who also
will have much re-building to do
presently, can take courage as we
read of what China is doing. The
sun may climb slowly, how slowly,
but no Dictator can prevent its rising.

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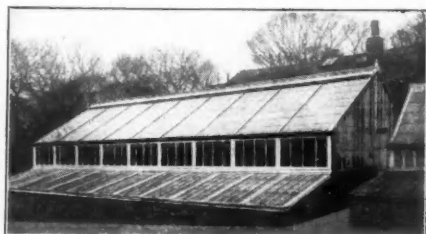
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THE TWEED Ensemble

A FEW years ago the country walking shoe was sacrosanct; anything but the classic brown calf Oxford shoe or, in certain cases, a gillie, was taboo. The invasion of thick crêpe-soled shoes, of wedges, above all of colour, has altered everything. Even in this winter of clothes rationing and shortage of supplies, the country shoe is a leader of fashion, so striking in design that it is worn successfully with every type of garment in town as well as in the country. Styles are many and all are good. Colours are bright, clear, and mixed with audacity, though one-toned russet and nut brown shoes with thick crêpe soles predominate. Wedges are few and likely to be fewer in the future owing to shortage of materials. A combination of ostrich or crocodile and reversed calf is very new—an attractive wedge from Lilley and Skinner in these two skins with a square toe is illustrated.

Country shoes of the Cromwellian type with a gusset of elastic under the tongue are popular. These have a sensible leather heel and are excellent all-purpose shoes. Thick brown walking shoes are everywhere. Their platform soles and peasant leathers make them entirely different from the classic Oxfords. The most popular Joyce shoe of all is a grained calf in dark chocolate brown with a thick brown crêpe rubber sole, amazingly light. A broad

Margaret Barry makes the back and sleeves of her tailored tweed dress in plain wine, with a front checked in wine and blue-grey. The skirt is box-pleated all round with checks put crosswise under the pleats in front, and there is a small stand-up collar and butterfly bow. The wine-coloured collarless coat matches, hangs straight from shoulder to hem, with rounded revers and facing of the check.

band runs across the vamp and has a side fastening that laces through gold rings. These shoes with side fastenings make the foot look small, even with the thick sole and leather. Joyce make another attractive platform shoe in reversed calf with a broad tongue piped with leather in a contrasting colour. This can be worn with practically anything, in town or country, winter or summer. Lillywhites have a square-toed reversed calf walking shoe piped with a gay cord—russet brown has a green and white cord, navy blue a crimson and white, burgundy a navy and white. Burgundy is second in popularity to the russet browns and most attractive with the many plaid or

checked tweeds in burgundy and several pinks and blues. Many brown shoes have a contrast in colour for the sole. Lotus and Delta put a candy-striped rubber wedge sole on their thick, reversed calf country shoes. The Lilley and Skinner model we have photographed is brown, the colour of a red squirrel, with a green rubber sole. Raynes reversed calf brogue, with a leather heel and wafer rubber sole, has a rubber band at the top and bottom of the low heel that makes a pretty pattern.

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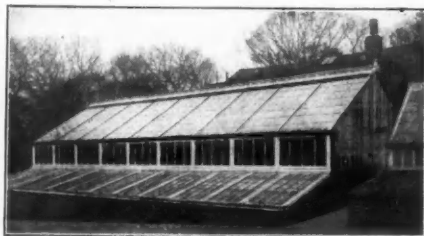
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THE TWEED Ensemble

A FEW years ago the country walking shoe was sacrosanct; anything but the classic brown calf Oxford shoe or, in certain cases, a gillie, was taboo. The invasion of thick crêpe-soled shoes, of wedges, above all of colour, has altered everything. Even in this winter of clothes rationing and shortage of supplies, the country shoe is a leader of fashion, so striking in design that it is worn successfully with every type of garment in town as well as in the country. Styles are many and all are good. Colours are bright, clear, and mixed with audacity, though one-toned russet and nut brown shoes with thick crêpe soles predominate. Wedges are few and likely to be fewer in the future owing to shortage of materials. A combination of ostrich or crocodile and reversed calf is very new—an attractive wedge from Lilley and Skinner in these two skins with a square toe is illustrated.

Country shoes of the Cromwellian type with a gusset of elastic under the tongue are popular. These have a sensible leather heel and are excellent all-purpose shoes. Thick brown walking shoes are everywhere. Their platform soles and peasant leathers make them entirely different from the classic Oxfords. The most popular Joyce shoe of all is a grained calf in dark chocolate brown with a thick brown crêpe rubber sole, amazingly light. A broad

Margaret Barry makes the back and sleeves of her tailored tweed dress in plain wine, with a front checked in wine and blue-grey. The skirt is box-pleated all round with checks put crosswise under the pleats in front, and there is a small stand-up collar and butterfly bow. The wine-coloured collarless coat matches, hangs straight from shoulder to hem, with rounded revers and facing of the check.

band runs across the vamp and has a side fastening that laces through gold rings. These shoes with side fastenings make the foot look small, even with the thick sole and leather. Joyce make another attractive platform shoe in reversed calf with a broad tongue piped with leather in a contrasting colour. This can be worn with practically anything, in town or country, winter or summer. Lillywhites have a square-toed reversed calf walking shoe piped with a gay cord—russet brown has a green and white cord, navy blue a crimson and white, burgundy a navy and white. Burgundy is second in popularity to the russet browns and most attractive with the many plaid or

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FOOTWEAR



2

for Footwork



3



4



5



1. The crocodile court shoe is hand-made with a Spanish heel, brown, navy or black. The wedge is ostrich skin, with a nigger elasticised suede girdle and wedge. Both from Lilley and Skinner.

2. A square-toed walking shoe with leather heel and sole, saddle-stitching on the vamp and a leather lace in a second colour. Calf shoe with side fastening, a studded band and parachutes of leather on the laces. The Cromwellian shoe is green kid with a stitched, fringed tongue. Lotus and Delta.

3. Russet suede with a punched vamp and a green crepe platform sole, heel, and foxing. Lilley and Skinner. The antelope and nigger kid Norwegian house slipper comes from Lillywhites.

4. Suede court shoe lavishly stitched with bow of rouleaux of gros-grain ribbon. The square-toed, square-heeled kid in nut brown is stitched all over in squares. Both from Raynes.

5. The grained calf boot lined with lamb's wool is beige, and comes from Lillywhites. The tan calf and fawn boxcloth boot with calf cuff and wedge heel is from Lilley and Skinner.

HOUSE shoes are gay as bright scarlet, green, blue or russet brown kid can make them. They are cut on the lines of a Norwegian slipper or like a moccasin. Lillywhites make soft Russian leather slippers and antelopes trimmed with kid. Dolcis run a bright scarlet or green lace through the top of their russet brown leather slippers that have a fringed apron front. Joyce give their kid moccasins scarlet plaid linings. These slippers are the most comfortable I have ever worn and the best possible thing with tweeds and sweaters or slacks.

Country stockings in coloured wool are ribbed and very smart in bright colours, though the conservative browns and greys are also included in all the ranges. Ribs are broad, and even in London woollen stockings in cherry, wine and ultramarine blue are being worn, and look charming with the gay tweed suits. Marshall and Snelgrove have a heavy-weight in a good range of colours and a broad rib that cost 18s. 9d. a pair. Lattice checks, Argyll plaids and herringbones in tweed colours cost 25s. 9d. a pair. Narrow-ribbed plain wools in heather tones are made in two weights and cost 6s. 11d. and 8s. 11d. a pair. Wear the neutral colours with plain frieze suits and herringbones, when they should match as nearly as possible, but the brighter shades are pretty, not only with the gayer tweeds but with plain dark town clothes. Knee-length socks at Marshall and Snelgrove's are made in fine wool with a fancy rib and Lastex Yarn woven into the top. These are specially designed for wearing with slacks, and come in a great range of colours, in two weights at 7s. 11d. and 11s. 9d. a pair; perhaps the smartest colour of all is wine. Similar socks are made in mercerised cotton in rich dark tones, for 6s. 6d. a pair. The newest ankle socks are Fair Isle in vivid colours—cerise with gold, green with rust, blue with cherry. Silk stockings are very few and far between, but there are compensations. Lisle and rayons are being made on the silk machines with the same fashioning and flat working on the feet. Marshall and Snelgrove have attractive artificial crêpe rayons with a wonderful stretch for 5s. 11d. and 6s. 11d. a pair, and a hard twist Scotch lisle in two weights at 5s. 11d. and 6s. 11d. a pair. Gossamer chiffon lisle stockings cost 6s. 6d. Service stockings are being woven in chiffon lisles and fine resilient artificial silks in the Service colours for off-duty periods.

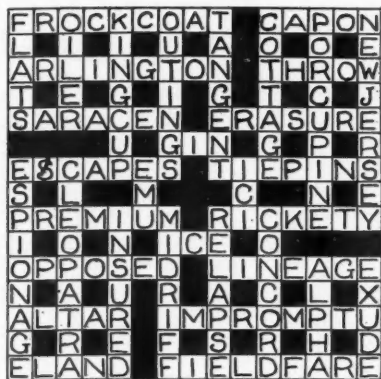
P. JOYCE REYNOLDS

COUNTRY LIFE CROSSWORD

No. 615

SOLUTION to No. 614

The winner of this crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of October 31, will be announced next week.



A prize of books to the value of two guineas, drawn from those published by COUNTRY LIFE, will be awarded for the first correct solution to this puzzle opened in this office. Solutions should be addressed (in a closed envelope) "Crossword No. 615, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," and must reach this office not later than the first post on the morning of Thursday, November 13, 1941.

The winner of Crossword No. 613 is Mrs. Joan Mills, 7, Hampstead Gardens, Finchley Road, N.W.11.

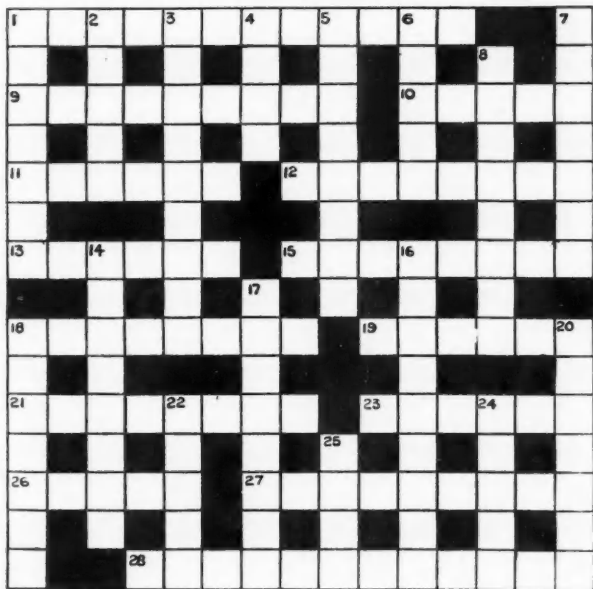
ACROSS.

- There's nothing fictitious about this (three words, 6, 2, 4)
- Unwelcome among the corn (5)
- It seems immature to Edward (9)
- Interest that should be realised one day (9)
- Jack frequently seen aloft (5)
- No doctor drowns (4)
- The end of 3 down, for instance (6)
- A quality you can depend on (8)
- This village, famous for its stone, provides 100 lips with food, apparently (8)
- A group of trees that comes into the game (5)
- Formerly a Royal palace (6)
- Not yet christened, presumably (7)
- It keeps the carpet in place (8)
- Red and white mixed but gone dry (8)
- Clocks, conductors, soldiers all do (two words, 4, 4)
- "Rest tour" (anagr.) (8)
- The V.A.D. gets in—and out of something (6)
- It makes an aid of 22 (9)
- "Lend ours" (anagr.) (8)
- The kind of assurance that is not definitely expressed (8)
- The sixth letter? Correct. But how fearful! (6)
- Vegetables that won't grow in lines (7)
- Won't it be grand if it's Wagner? (5)
- Those dogs, the crossword compilers? (7)
- It can take the field 50 a side (9)
- She was Artemis to the 24 (5)
- Poison, not gas, is the danger to fear from them (12)
- See 22 (5)

DOWN.

- "I'm a cure," he might say in confusion (7)
- "Where shall we find her, how shall we sing to her, Fold our hands round her — and cling?"—Swinburne (4)

COUNTRY LIFE CROSSWORD No. 615

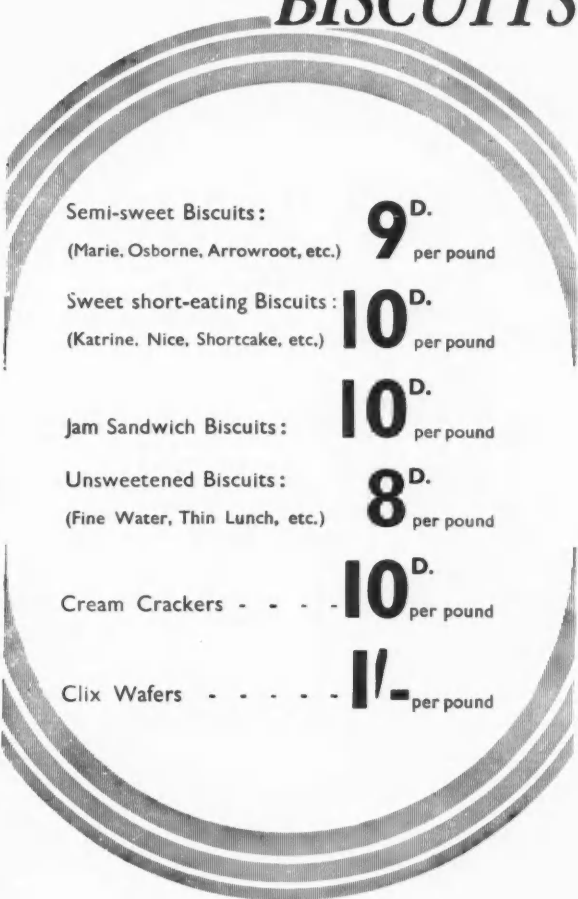


Name

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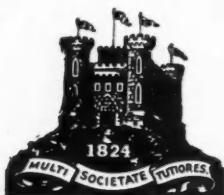
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